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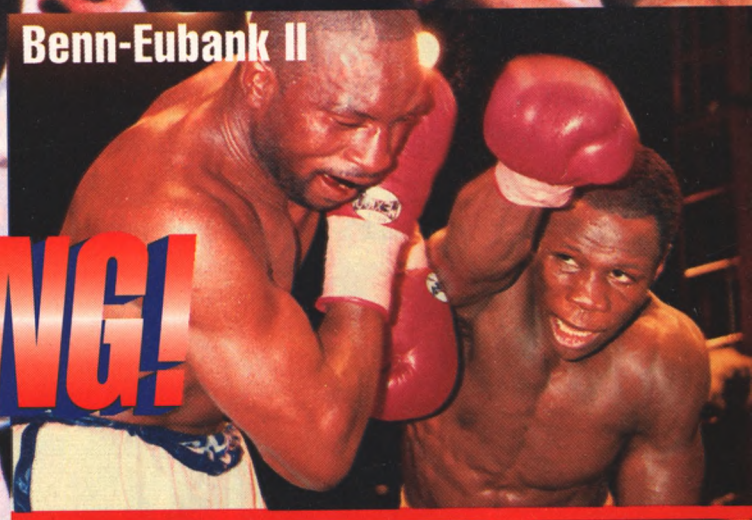

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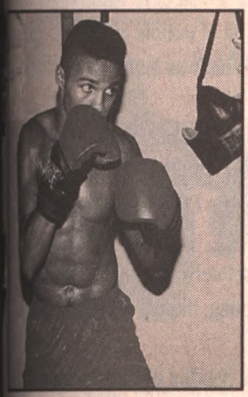
Contents

February 1994

page 20



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page 35

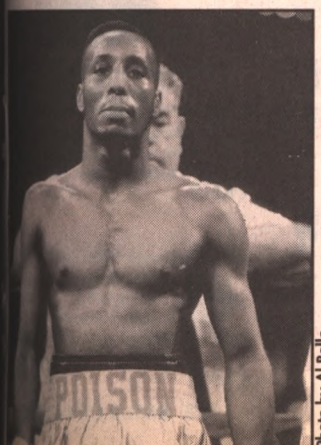


Photo by Al Bello

FEATURES

18 THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE PHOTO QUIZ
This Month: Championship-Quality Fighters Who Never Won A World Title

20 WBA WELTER CHAMP FELIX TRINIDAD
The Latest Sensation Or A Don King Creation?
by Nigel Collins

24 WHERE HAVE ALL THE FIGHT CLUBS GONE?
Remembering St. Nick's, The Olympic, Sunnyside Garden ...
by Robert Cassidy

35 JUNIOR JONES WINS THE WBA BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE
Skill, Power, And A Whole Lotta Character
by Steve Farhood

38 THE BRITISH ARE COMING!
Does America Have Anything To Worry About?
by Brian Doogan

44 TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY HEAVYWEIGHT SAILOR TOM SHARKEY
The Jerry Quarry Of His Day
by Patrick Myler

page 38

Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

Ringside Reports And Analyses

48 FIGHTER OF THE MONTH & RINGSIDE REPORTS

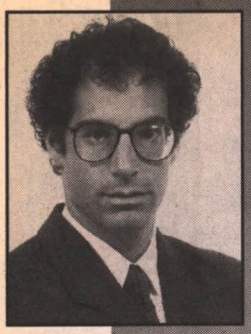
Ratings

10 THE RING'S INTERNATIONAL RATINGS & RECORDS

66 WBC, WBA, & IBF RATINGS

DEPARTMENTS

4 **RINGSIDE** *by Steve Farhood*
6 **COME OUT WRITING**
8 **ROUND ONE**
14 **RYAN OUT LOUD** *by Jeff Ryan*
16 **NEW FACES:** Heavyweight Buster Mathis Jr. *by Steve Farhood*
22 **BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS:** James Toney vs. Thomas Hearns
32 **TIME CAPSULES** *by Stanley Weston*
65 **BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK** *by Don Scott*
68 **THE RING CLASSIC: NO SUBSTITUTE FOR HEART** *by Barney Nagler*
74 **LOOKING AHEAD**



Ringside

I put this issue to bed at five o'clock on a Friday afternoon but saved the editorial because I sensed th weekend would provide plenty to write about. I was right.

A few months ago the thought that Michael Bentt would be the man to bring Riddick Bowe and Lennox Lew together would have been dismissed as preposterous. Bowe and Lewis weren't going to clash until mid- or la 1994, right? And besides, who the hell was Michael Bentt? The only thing we knew about him was he used to b Michael Bent. But the New York heavyweight was born in London, so he decided it was t-time.

With Bentt kayoing Tommy Morrison in one round, Bowe-Lewis may happen sooner instead of lat Morrison was to have received $7.5-million for his challenge of WBC heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis o March 6. With a victory, he would've pocketed double that for a showdown with Bowe. Instead, a Bowe-Micha Moorer bout may be put on hold (what good's a mandatory defense if it can't be postponed a few times?), wh Bowe-Lewis to fill the date. As we went to press, Bowe was scheduled to defend against Evander Holyfield o November 6.

Before Bentt-Morrison, Bill Cayton, Morrison's co-manager, was wary of risking a $7.5-million payo against an opponent with two fists, much less two t's. But Morrison felt he needed added experience, so the fig was made. Seems Cayton, who fancies himself the E.F. Hutton of managers, has a bit of trouble getting his fighte to listen to him. (He didn't get along too well with that other heavyweight of his. What was his name again?) Bi Bill, don't take this wrong, but I wouldn't exactly call you a people person.

As for Morrison, several reports indicated he trained on fleshy females and potent potables. Promoter Jo Arum went as far as to suggest to Newsday that "The Duke" spent part of his purse on breast-enhancement for trio of girlfriends. "He likes his women built to his specifications," reported Bottom Line Bob. Sounds like t kinkiest heavyweight since Rocky Marciano.

It's prime time for Tommy-knocking, so here goes: Morrison has learned absolutely nothing from his loss Ray Mercer and close calls against Joe Hipp and Carl Williams. I've learned one thing, though: I don't know wh his girlfriends look like, but what needs a bit of enhancement is his chin.

The worst part of Morrison's loss is that we'll once again have to sit through a handful of comeback fights ESPN, stern tests against the likes of Macaulay Culkin, Muggsy Bogues, and Sonny Bono. Morrison isn't close finished. He's only 24, and in 15 years he'll be fighting Jose Ribalta on Tuesday Night At The Fights. As for conqueror, it'll probably be a while before a title shot surfaces. But that's no reason to get Bentt out of shape. held the editorial two days for this?)

***

It's rare that I call attention to a particular story, but I'm making an exception. Robert Cassidy's feature on fight club arenas of yesterday (page 26) is truly special. Sometimes a writer can't hide his passion for his subje Cassidy, whose father, former light heavyweight contender Bobby Cassidy, fought in those arenas, makes t reader wish he were ringside at St. Nick's or Sunnyside Garden. I think I know how Cassidy feels; sometime wish I were just a few years older, too.

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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Come Out Writing

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 956, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

THE WHITAKER-CHAVEZ DEBACLE

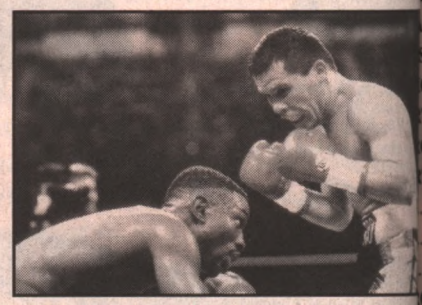
It is 4:11 in the a.m. I just awoke from a horrible nightmare: Don King was turning the sport of profess boxing into something similar to the World Wrestling Federation!

Three nights ago I witnessed Jesse James Leija merely exist against a dominant Azumah Nelson. The resu draw. In the main event, Pernell Whitaker Turtle-Waxed Julio Cesar Chavez from the second round to the f bell. The result: a draw.

Don, do us all a favor and reward the winner with the victory. If the fight would have been fairly awarde Whitaker, King would probably have grossed double in a rematch, with millions of fans wanting to see Chave his revenge.

And I thought Don King was a smart businessman.

DERRICK WILMORE
Capitol Heights, MD



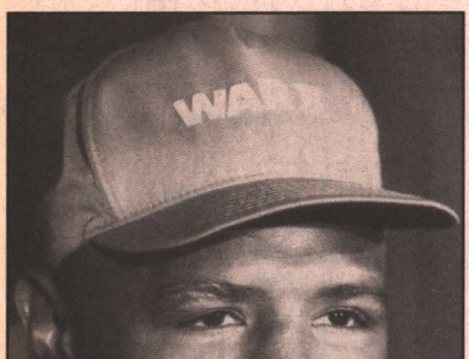
Whitaker-Chavez: The readers have no doubt

Pernell Whitaker should be recognized as boxing's best fighter. Anyone who disagrees is just as corrupt as those who stole the Chavez fight from him. Now I understand why people want a federal boxing commission.

TED PANAGIOTIS
Pawtucket, RI

It was obvious that Whitaker beat Chavez. These two could fight 60 times and the result would be the s Whitaker on points. But find me a true fight fan who, having acknowledged the skills and speed of Whi would not rather pay to see Chavez go to work. Whitaker is what we appreciate about boxing, but Chavez is we love it. That is why, despite what was obviously a loss, Chavez is the stuff of legends and Whitaker is not.

M.T. BATES
Worcester, MA



Hagler: Is he still bitter?

HAGGLING OVER HAGLER

I read with interest Ed Maloney's piece on Marvin Hagler in the November 1993 issue ("Ma Hagler Joins Boxing's Immortals: The Bitterness Has Faded"). However, it seems "The Bitte Has Faded" was an improper subtitle. Not only does Hagler seem to have retained his anger ove decision loss to Sugar Ray Leonard, but he also still has an axe to grind concerning his draw Vito Antuofermo.

The Antuofermo bout was extremely competitive. Antuofermo refused to be intimidated, an on a gritty performance. It could have gone either way. And I'm tired of the moaning abou Leonard decision. Leonard used his savvy to outclass and outmaneuver Hagler. Leonard won clea every major boxing publication scored for him. It would have been scandalous had Leonard *not* b declared the winner.

Hagler was a great champion, and he deserves his place in the Hall of Fame. But his insist that he was robbed continues to irk me. The bitterness will not have truly faded until he admits he to Leonard. Judging by Maloney's article, that's not likely to happen very soon.

JOHN ROBERTSON
Cambridge, Ontario ■

ume 73, No. 2 February 1994

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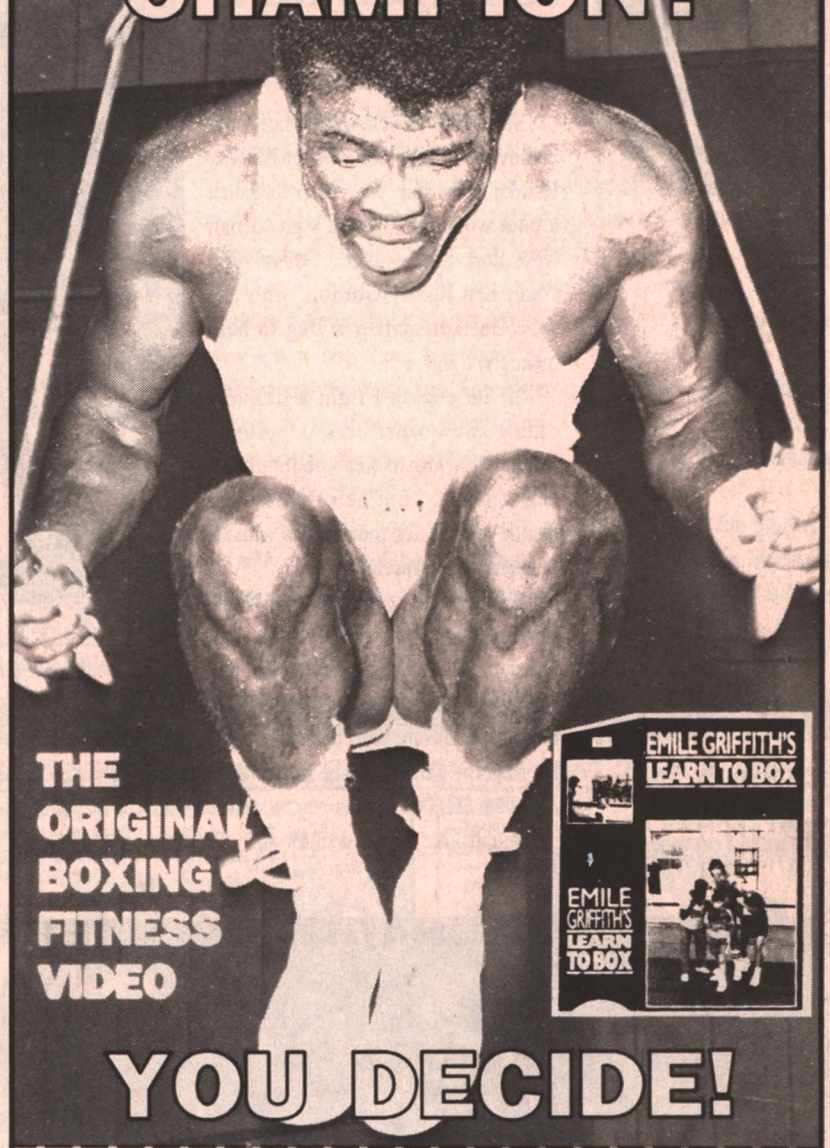

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Round One

COUNT HIM IN

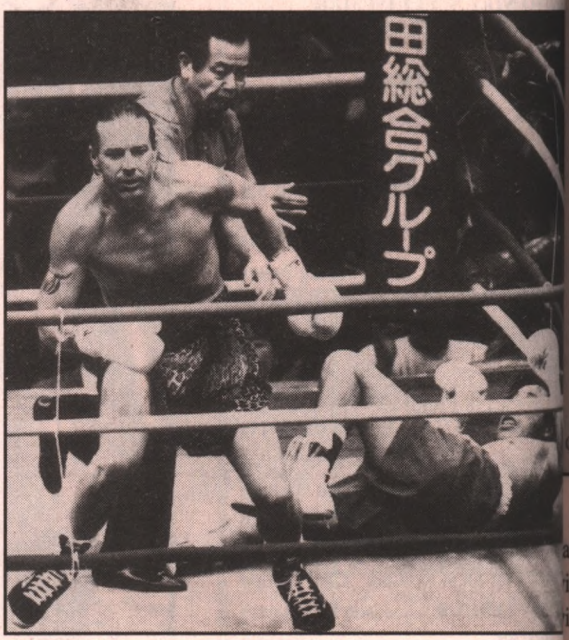
Count Roffredo Gaetani wants a particular fight. And he's willing to pay $50,000 to get it.

Seems the 40-year-old Italian count dreams of getting actor/boxer Mickey Rourke in the ring. No matter that such a bout would be Gaetani's pro debut. New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Randy Gordon, who has seen Gaetani spar, is trying to help make the fight.

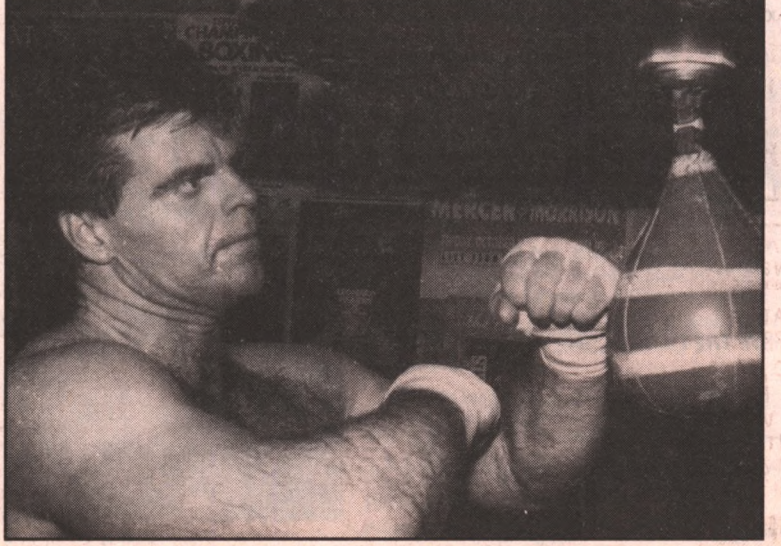
"If he couldn't fight a lick and didn't know what he was doing, I wouldn't want to hear about this," Gordon said. "But he certainly can handle himself for four rounds without embarrassing himself."

Rumor has it Gaetani, a well-known New York personality, and Rourke, 5-0, met at a party earlier this year. Words were exchanged. Gordon is trying to get them to exchange something more, preferably at The Paramount. But no matter what happe the ring, the winner will be former lightweight contender Sergei Artemiev. If the fight is made, Gaetani has a to donate $50,000 to help pay Artemiev's massive medical bills.

Sounds like a good deal for all.



Rourke kayos Darrell Miller in Tokyo in June 1992



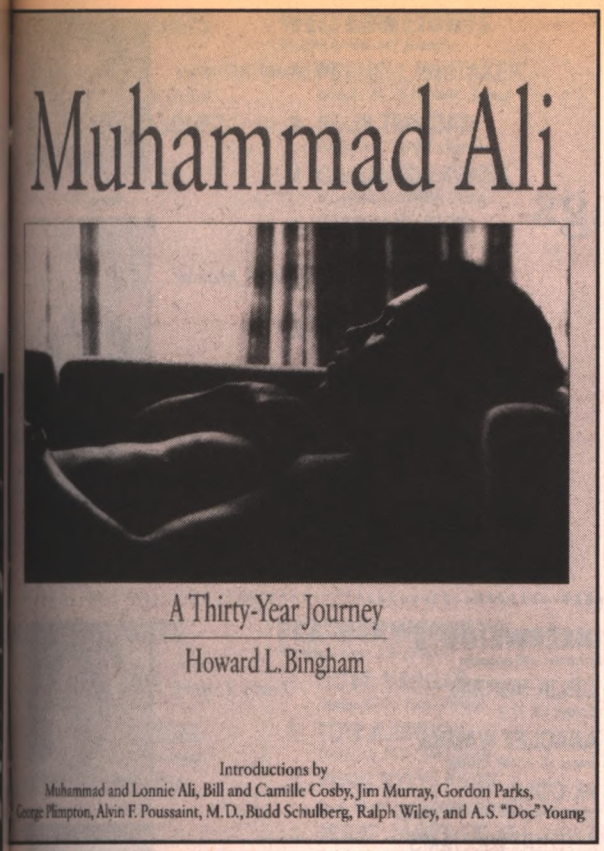
Gastineau: Were the fixes in?

IF IT AIN'T BROKE

It's hard to believe that anyone would de necessary to fix the fights of aged former com Tex Cobb and the inept Mark Gastineau, according to an October 4 story in *Sports Illustr* that's exactly what their promoter, Rick "E Parker, did. On September 15, 1992, Cobb k Sonny Barch in the first round of a natio televised bout at the War Memorial Auditorium Lauderdale. Barch told *SI* the heavyweight choreographed the bout that afternoon, and Parker had arranged the fix.

"The one thing I wanted to do," Barch wrot piece *SI* paid him to pen, "was to make it loo good and believable from the start, and that's tried to do."

Barch said the bout was one of about a



fixes orchestrated by Parker, including Gastineau's first-round stoppage of Rick Hoard, which was on the same September 15 card. He has given sworn testimony to the Florida Athletic Commission, which is presenting its findings to the Florida attorney general for criminal prosecution.

"Never, ever, ever, ever in any fights I've been associated with have I ever paid anyone to take a fall or take a dive for anyone," responded Parker.

According to *SI*, Cobb denied the Barch fight was fixed, and Gastineau refused to be interviewed.

"THE GREATEST," IN BLACK & WHITE

Muhammad Ali is a good thing, and if you believe you can't get enough of one, you'll enjoy "Muhammad Ali: A Thirty-Year Journey," by Howard L. Bingham (Simon & Schuster; $32.50).

The last couple of years have seen publication of a pair of exquisite books on Ali, "Muhammad Ali: His Life And Times," by Thomas Hauser, and "Muhammad Ali: Memories," by Hauser and Neil Leifer. The former is the definitive Ali biography, the latter a colorful combination of text and photos. Bingham's picture book is a bit different; it contains no color photos, and only a few action shots. Look elsewhere for Ali the fighter. Bingham celebrates the celebrity and the man. And who better to do it? The photographer, who was perhaps the most popular member of "The Greatest's" inner circle, is Ali's closest friend. He has known Ali since 1962, and in that time has snapped some 500,000 photos.

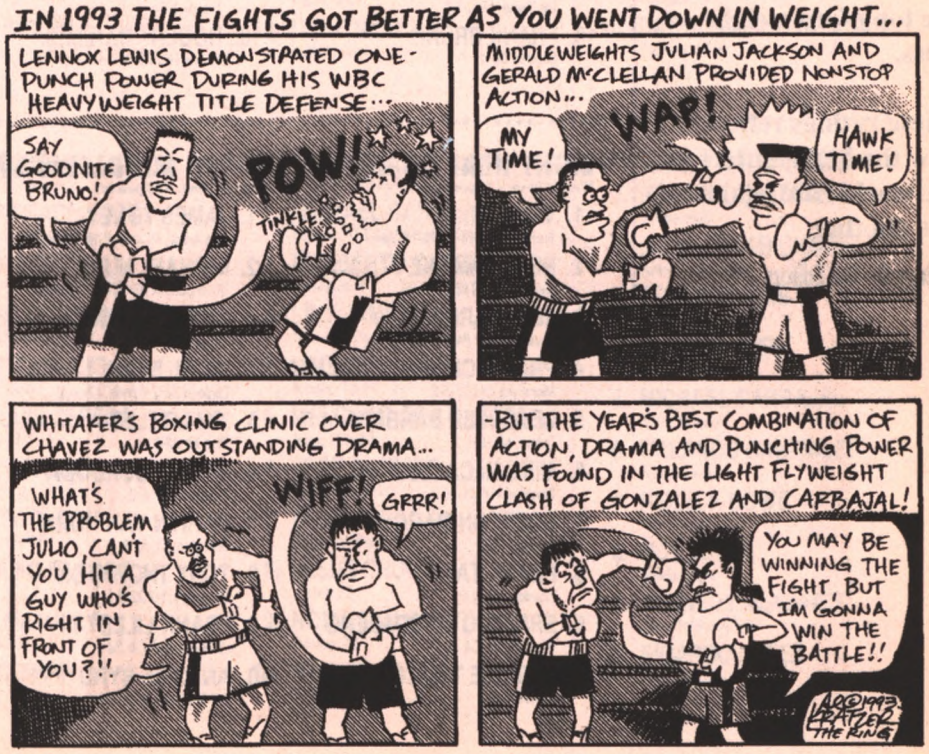
Bingham's book is not without words: There are introductions by, among others, Ali and his wife Lonnie, Bill and Camille Cosby, Jim Murray, Gordon Parks, George Plimpton, and Budd Schulberg. But the photos, most of which are truly special, tell the story. There's Ali with The Beatles, Ali in Zaire, Ali with Joe Louis and Sugar Ray Robinson, Ali racing a go-cart, and the most intriguing photo of all, a 1975 picture of Ali with then-wife Belinda and future wives Veronica and Lonnie.

Clearly, Bingham saw it all, and captured almost all of it on film.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Comebacking former lightweight contender **Kenny "Bang Bang" Bogner**, 32, surrendered to police in Trenton, New Jersey, after spending a month on the lam. Bogner was wanted for armed robbery, weapons charges, and parole violations. In 1990, he was sentenced to 10 years for the mugging of a 67-year-old woman for money to buy crack. He was paroled in 1991 ... After several years in prison, one-time lightweight contender **Alvin "Too Sweet" Hayes** is training at the Kronk ... Immensely popular one-time heavyweight contender **Joey Rowan** died of a heart attack in his hometown of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania. He was 59. Rowan fought from 1952 to 1959. He defeated **Bert Whitehurst** and **Wayne Beathea**, drew with **Bob Satterfield**, and lost to **Willie Pastrano**, **Roy Harris**, **Chuck Speiser**, and **Pat McMurtry**. His overall record: 30-16-1 (14). ■

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended October 28, 1993

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Michael Moorer

Henry Maske

John David Jackson

Tony Lopez

Kevin Kelley

Michael Carbajal

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **RIDDICK BOWE**
   Fort Washington, MD *34-0 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS**
   England *24-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
   Atlanta, GA *29-1*
4. **TOMMY MORRISON**
   Merriam, KS *37-1*
5. **MICHAEL MOORER**
   Detroit, MI *33-0*
6. **GEORGE FOREMAN**
   Marshall, TX *72-4*
7. **OLIVER McCALL**
   Chicago, IL *22-5*
8. **PHIL JACKSON**
   Miami, FL *29-1*
9. **MIKE HUNTER**
   Las Vegas, NV *21-3-2*
10. **FRANK BRUNO**
    England *36-4*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 195 pounds

1. **ORLIN NORRIS**
   Campo, CA *37-3*
2. **ANACLET WAMBA**
   France *40-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **AL COLE**
   Spring Valley, NY *23-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
   Las Vegas, NV *19-1-1*
5. **BOBBY CZYZ**
   Montgomery County, NJ *40-5*
6. **NATE MILLER**
   Philadelphia, PA *23-3*
7. **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
   Argentina *32-3*
8. **MASSIMILIANO DURAN**
   Italy *19-4*
9. **AKIM TAFER**
   France *17-4*
10. **ROBERT DANIELS**
    Miami, FL *24-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **VIRGIL HILL**
   Bismarck, ND *36-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **HENRY MASKE**
   Germany *20-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **JEFF HARDING**
   Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
   Mansfield, OH *35-5-2*
5. **LEEONZER BARBER**
   Detroit, MI *18-1*
6. **MIKE McCALLUM**
   Brooklyn, NY *45-2-1*
7. **EGERTON MARCUS**
   Canada *12-0*
8. **FRANK TATE**
   Houston, TX *34-3*
9. **ERNESTO MAGDALENO**
   Westminster, CA *16-0-1*
10. **FABRICE TIOZZO**
    France *26-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI *40-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **MICHAEL NUNN**
   Davenport, IA *41-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CHRIS EUBANK**
   England *36-0-1*
4. **NIGEL BENN**
   England *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **TIM LITTLES**
   Flint, MI *23-0*
6. **VICTOR CORDOBA**
   N. Ireland *19-5-2*
7. **DARRIN VAN HORN**
   Lexington, KY *53-3*
8. **TONY THORNTON**
   Glassboro, NJ *32-5-1*
9. **FRANK LILES**
   N. Hollywood, CA *24-1*
10. **ANTOINE BYRD**
    Los Angeles, CA *24-4-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **ROY JONES**
   Pensacola, FL *23-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **GERALD McCLELLAN**
   Freeport, IL *29-2 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
   Seattle, WA *30-0 (WBA Champ)*
4. **REGGIE JOHNSON**
   Houston, TX *34-3-1*
5. **JULIAN JACKSON**
   Virgin Islands *47-2*
6. **THOMAS TATE**
   Houston, TX *29-2*
7. **LAMAR PARKS**
   Greeneville, SC *26-1*
8. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Philadelphia, PA *23-2*
9. **VINNY PAZIENZA**
   Cranston, RI *35-5*
10. **OTIS GRANT**
    Canada *22-0*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA 36-3 (WBC Champ)
2. JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina 45-1 (WBA Champ)
3. GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy 57-3 (IBF Champ)
4. VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY 19-5
5. CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO 30-1
6. AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY 38-2
7. RONALD WRIGHT
St. Petersburg, FL 22-0
8. JULIO CESAR GREEN
Brooklyn, NY 14-1
9. GILBERT DELE
France 33-3-1
10. SIMON BROWN
Germantown, MD 38-2

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA 32-1-1 (WBC Champ)
2. FELIX TRINIDAD
Puerto Rico 22-0 (IBF Champ)
3. CRISANTO ESPANA
N. Ireland 30-0 (WBA Champ)
4. BUDDY McGIRT
Hauppauge, NY 58-3-1
5. YORI BOY CAMPAS
Mexico 52-0
6. WILFREDO RIVERA
Puerto Rico 17-0-1
7. DAVID GONZALEZ
Houston, TX 33-2-1
8. IKE QUARTEY
Ghana 24-0
9. OBA CARR
Detroit, MI 28-0
10. LARRY BARNES
Mt. Vernon, NY 29-1

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico 87-0-1 (WBC Champ)
2. JUAN COGGI
Argentina 64-2-2 (WBA Champ)
3. CHARLES MURRAY
Rochester, NY 30-1 (IBF Champ)
4. KOSTYA TSZYU
Australia 10-0
5. ZACK PADILLA
Azusa, CA 17-1-1
6. CARLOS GONZALEZ
Mexico 37-1
7. TERRENCE ALLI
Linden, NJ 52-8-2
8. HECTOR LOPEZ
Tarzana, CA 26-2
9. DAVID KAMAU
Los Angeles, CA 21-0
10. VALERY KAYUMBA
France 33-0-1

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ
Mexico 29-0 (WBC Champ)
2. FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL 35-17-4 (IBF Champ)
3. DINGAAN THOBELA
South Africa 29-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. RAFAEL RUELAS
Arleta, CA 38-1
5. SHARMBA MITCHELL
Takoma Park, MD 29-0
6. TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA 43-4-1
7. NAZAROV OLZUBEK
Japan 17-0
8. JOEY GAMACHE
Lewiston, ME 32-1
9. JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY
France 45-4-2
10. MIGUEL JULIO
Colombia 23-1-1

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana 36-2-2 (WBC Champ)
2. GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA 29-0-1 (WBA Champ)
3. JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico 33-3 (IBF Champ)
4. CALVIN GROVE
Coatesville, PA 44-5
5. GABE RUELAS
Arleta, CA 34-2
6. OSCAR DE LA HOYA
Montebello, CA 10-0
7. JIMMI BREDAHL
Denmark 16-0
8. VICTOR HUGO PAZ
Argentina 38-1-1
9. REGILIO TUUR
Whitestone, NY 32-3-1
10. MARCOS GUEVARA
Venezuela 20-2

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. GOYO VARGAS
Mexico 30-3-1 (WBC Champ)
2. TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI 33-2-1 (IBF Champ)
3. YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea 25-1-1 (WBA Champ)
4. JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX 26-0-2
5. PAUL HODKINSON
England 22-2-1
6. KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY 36-0
7. ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ
Mexico 28-2-2
8. STEVE ROBINSON
Wales 16-9-1
9. FRANCISCO SEGURA
Coachella, CA 23-6-1
10. TONY GREEN
Philadelphia, PA 21-3-1

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV 25-0-1 (IBF Champ)
2. TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY 48-2-1 (WBC Champ)
3. WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico 37-6-3 (WBA Champ)
4. WELCOME NCITA
South Africa 32-1
5. JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico 27-3-2
6. JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX 37-3-1
7. JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA 45-6
8. CESAR SOTO
Mexico 35-5-2
9. YUICHI KASAI
Japan 18-0-1
10. DUKE McKENZIE
England 33-4

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX 34-1-1 (IBF Champ)
2. JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY 31-0 (WBA Champ)
3. JUNG IL BYUN
South Korea 10-0 (WBC Champ)
4. ELIECER JULIO
Colombia 24-1
5. RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico 15-0
6. VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico 33-12-2
7. VINCENZO BELCASTRO
Italy 25-5-3
8. GERARDO MARTINEZ
San Jose, CA 29-1
9. HAROLD MESTRE
Colombia 17-2
10. DAORUNG CHUVATANA
Thailand 47-4-2

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. SUNG KIL MOON
South Korea 20-1 (WBC Champ)
2. KATSUYA ONIZUKA
Japan 21-0 (WBA Champ)
3. JULIO BORBOA
Mexico 20-4 (IBF Champ)
4. KHAOYAI MAHASARAKAM
Thailand 44-3
5. MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA
Mexico 27-0
6. ROBERT QUIROGA
San Antonio, TX 20-1
7. JOHNNY BREDAHL
Denmark 19-0
8. CARLOS SALAZAR
Argentina 30-4-3
9. KOTARO HAYASHI
Japan 12-3
10. JOEL LUNA ZARATE
Mexico 21-1

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. YURI ARBACHAKOV
Japan 16-0 (WBC Champ)
2. DAVID GRIMAN
Venezuela 17-1 (WBA Champ)
3. PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN
Thailand 17-0 (IBF Champ)
4. ISAIAS ZAMUDIO
Blythe, CA 34-4-1
5. JOSE LUIS ZEPEDA
Mexico 23-11-2
6. MARK JOHNSON
Washington, D.C. 15-1
7. SCOTTY OLSON
Las Vegas, NV 27-1
8. RODOLFO BLANCO
Colombia 26-7-1
9. DAVE McAULEY
Ireland 18-3-2
10. ERIC GRIFFIN
Jasper, TN 10-0

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Phoenix, AZ 28-0 (WBC/IBF Champ)
2. HUMBERTO GONZALEZ
Mexico 36-2
3. LEO GAMEZ
Venezuela 24-3 (WBA Champ)
4. LEON SALAZAR
Panama 15-3-1
5. MELCHOR COB CASTRO
Mexico 36-4-3
6. JOSE DeJESUS
Puerto Rico 26-2-1
7. DOMINGO SOSA
Dominican Republic 19-1
8. JESUS CHONG
Mexico 21-5
9. ROBINSON CUESTA
Panama 23-1
10. NAM HOON CHA
South Korea 22-1-1

POUND FOR POUND

1. PERNELL WHITAKER
Welterweight
2. JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Junior Welterweight
3. TERRY NORRIS
Junior Middleweight
4. JAMES TONEY
Super Middleweight
5. MICHAEL CARBAJAL
Junior Flyweight
6. ORLANDO CANIZALES
Bantamweight
7. RIDDICK BOWE
Heavyweight
8. ROY JONES
Middleweight
9. KENNEDY McKINNEY
Junior Featherweight
10. RICARDO LOPEZ
Strawweight

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Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

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Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, *Raging Bull II.*

MAY 1987

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

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Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn-Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

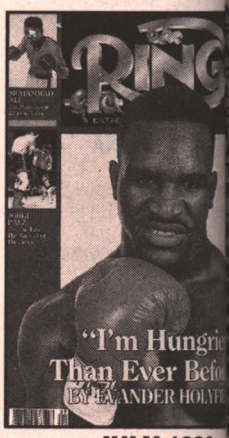
Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target...Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s-Great Great Fighters (color). Plus: Harding, Evander Holyfield, Rademacher, Sharkey-McCo...

April 1990: Pernell Whita... Ring Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Chavez-Taylor, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger, Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How Douglas Shocked The Wo... Michael Moorer, Camach... Tommy Farr, Excuses, Do... Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.



JULY 1990

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Th... Before!" By Evander Ho... Plus: Muhammad Ali pain... Liston II, New York welters, Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Ga...

Aug. 1990: His Gre... Confirmed ... Is Julio Chavez The Greatest M... Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthe... Muhammad, Sullivan & ... Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler-... Resist The Irresistible Temp... Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sa... Saddler, Paul Banke, punc... chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-... (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks Fo... Memories: Rocky Graziano ... 1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike... Napoles-Leonard, A Gathe... Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. For... Can Iron Mike Stop The Bla... The Past? Plus: Marciano-La... boxing's best chins, Azumah ... Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive ... Report: The State Of The ... Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-H... preview, Marciano-Frazier, D... Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Badde... Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By H... Rules. Plus: Roberto Dur... Akeem, Jose Napoles, ... Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, De... Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight Ring covers (color).
March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).
April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez-The Ring Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.
May 1991: All-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, All-Frazier pinup.
June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).
July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be...But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).
Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).
Oct. 1991: A Hit Again-How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).
Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, overrated and underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).
Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, rating the 44 world champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).
Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

MARCH 1992

March 1992: Turning Heads-Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).
April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).
May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Yuh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).
June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).
July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).
Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).
Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).
Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).
Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).
Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen ... Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).
Jan. 1993: Slammin' 'n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).
Feb. 1993: America's Tribute To The Brown Bomber: Joe Louis. Plus: Virgil Hill, Junior Jones, Roger Mayweather, Chicago boxing, Orlando Zulueta, Jose Napoles (color).
March 1993: From Question Man To Answer Man: Riddick Bowe Leaves No Doubts. Plus: Lennox Lewis, Lopez-Gamache, Frank Bruno, Rocky Kansas, Frank Fletcher, Crisanto Espana, Bowe-Lewis (color).
April 1993: Riddick Bowe: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: "Grand Slam" fight card, Toney-Barkley preview, Morris East, Joe Louis-John Henry Lewis, Argentina's All-Time Top 10, Fighters of the Year (color).
May 1993: Oscar De La Hoya's Sprint To The Title: Is He Good Enough Now? Plus: *The Ring* poll, Freddie Pendleton, Carbajal-Gonzales preview, Benny Leonard, Charley Burley, Lennox Lewis (color).

JUNE 1993

June 1993: Riddick Bowe, The Man, By LeRoy Neiman. Plus: Ireland's Top 10, Paul Hodkinson, Ray Mercer, James Toney-Iran Barkley, Kennedy McKinney, LeRoy Neiman (color).
Aug. 1993: A Ring Exclusive: Julio Cesar Chavez Speaks Out. Plus: Bobby Czyz, 10 Hardest Punchers in Boxing, Rafael Ruelas, Carmen Basilio, Closing of the Fifth Street Gym, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).
Sept. 1993: Lennox Lewis' First Title Defense: Beating Tucker Was The Easy Part. Plus: Mexico's Top 10, Sergei Artemiev, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Gerald McClellan-Julian Jackson, Michael Spinks (color).
Nov. 1993: Julio Cesar Chavez: He Crushed Haugen, Annihilated Alli, Is Whitaker Next? Plus: Marvin Hagler, Evander Holyfield, John-John Molina, Boxing's Training Tricks, Final Show at Madison Square Garden.
Dec. 1993: What If Mike Tyson Had Never Gone To Jail? Plus: Freddie Pendleton, Michael Moorer & Tommy Morrison, Willie Pep, Ed Dunkhorst, Cuba's Top 10, Tyson-Spinks (color).

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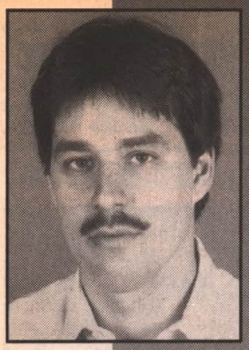


By Jeff Ryan

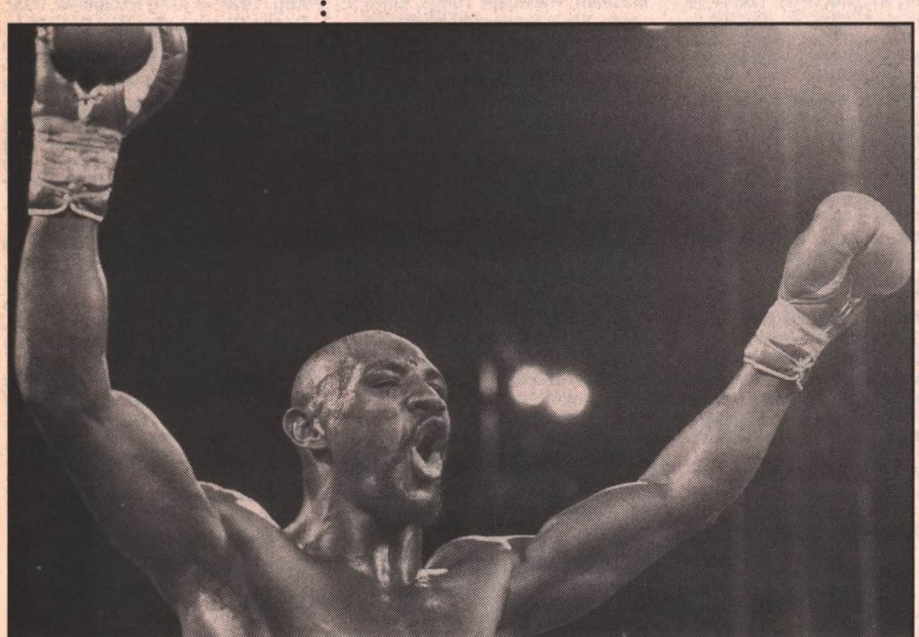
Ryan Out Loud

ONE WHO DIDN'T

It's true, we self-anointed mind-readers are in no position to doubt the sincerity of Michael J. retirement. Not unless we know the toll three NBA titles and 300,000 reporters' questions takes on a per we can determine exactly when one three-hour, middle-of-the-night delay at the Salt Lake City airport is many. Or we have been in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on a night when our kid was back in Chicago, g command performance in his role as a stalk of celery in the school play.

Regardless, our skepticism stands. Great athletes who think they have retained even a trace of money- ability simply can't stay retired. Period. Hockey's Guy Lafleur actually climbed down off a pedestal at the Fame to make a comeback. Bjorn Borg *and* his outdated wooden racket returned. Jim Palmer tried to com but got his Jockey shorts knocked off one spring training. Mark Spitz, Tracy Austin, they all come back. Ev Brown tarnished the purity of *his* retirement a few years ago when his ego talked him into running sprints Franco Harris in some silly televised testosterone Olympics.

Rocky Marciano never came back, but maybe that's only because he was born too soon. Could the R man so obsessed with money that he punched out a pay phone that stole his have resisted the lure of $7-million p for title defenses against Jesse Ferg HBO's bankroll, not 13 rounds with Joe Walcott, would have *really* teste legendary Marciano mettle.



Few fighters enjoyed the thrill of competition as much as Marvelous Marvin Hagler. But when the former middleweight champion retired, unlike rival Sugar Ray Leonard, he did so for good.

The Rock does score points for rem true to his word, but the boxing re admire most is the guy who *kept* Bro Massachusetts, on the map, not the gu put it there. Marvin Hagler last fought in 1987. Since then, he hasn't even come c a comeback. What makes that truly am besides the fact that we're talking ab boxer here, is that Hagler always seemed one of the least likely candidates to stay once he walked away.

Leonard, yeah, he'd stay away. Wo dare risk his eyesight. Michael S wouldn't come back. Had all the mon needed. One loss and Holyfield's retire would stick for sure. He never liked the game that much anyway. And Bobby Czyz was too smart for that stuff. Hagler, though, he was a *warrior*, a man who fought an uphill battle for attention all his life and wouldn't give it all up after one decision loss. One *split* decision loss. One split decision loss that he, a considered an injustice.

Well, look around. Hagler turned out to be the only member of the aforementioned group of supposedly thinkers who isn't a) wearing scars from a comeback, b) in the midst of a comeback, or c) planning a come Marvelous Marvin is living in Italy, speaking Italian, and working to make the transition from athlete to actor him the Ed *Marinara* of the Mediterranean.

"I've had many offers [to come back] but I refused them all," Hagler told THE RING at his induction in

International Boxing Hall of Fame in June. "I've been very happy in retirement. It was hard losing the itch to get in the ring because I loved boxing so much. But once I made the decision to retire, there was no turning back. I've never even been tempted. I believe I did the right thing. I got out of boxing with my faculties and my health, which is very important."

What was even more important to Hagler—though he may not be quick to admit it—was getting out with his dignity. Hagler is an intensely proud man. Never the pampered athlete growing up, he knew what it was like to supplement his early boxing income by laying bricks. In that way, he always reminded me of Joe Frazier, who took everything he learned in a Philadelphia slaughterhouse and applied it to the sides of beef he tenderized in the heavyweight division.

Hagler knew he was slowing down, and after the craving for a Leonard rematch went away, he was able to think intelligently. Leonard wasn't going to stand and fight him, and Hagler knew another 12 rounds of chasing his prey didn't give him the best chance of winning. He saw no other challenges that would make putting his reputation on the line a worthwhile risk. And he knew that, despite the loss to Leonard, he would be remembered fondly. Staying retired made perfect sense.

His exit wasn't perfect, but for him it was comfortable enough. His argument that he beat Leonard is not a legitimate one in my mind, but it is legitimate in the minds of enough people to assure that Hagler can gripe about it for the rest of his life and always have somebody's ear. Marvelous didn't end up laying on the ring apron, like Joe Louis, or with his eyes puffy and purple, like Muhammad Ali. There was no cowbell tolling for him in The Bahamas, no Madison Square Garden embarrassingly empty, as it was for Leonard's finale. Hagler exited having never been off his feet in 67 outings (nobody counts the unjust knockdown call he received against Juan Roldan), and with two of his three career losses having come on close decisions. Nobody cried for him, patronized him, or wrote tributes that read like obituaries.

Hagler's pride no doubt cost him the fight with Leonard. By insisting on having the bigger purse and the better billing, he was willing to concede the size of the ring and the weight of the gloves. They were concessions that came back to haunt him. But if that was the only time foolish pride clouded his thinking, he got off pretty lucky.

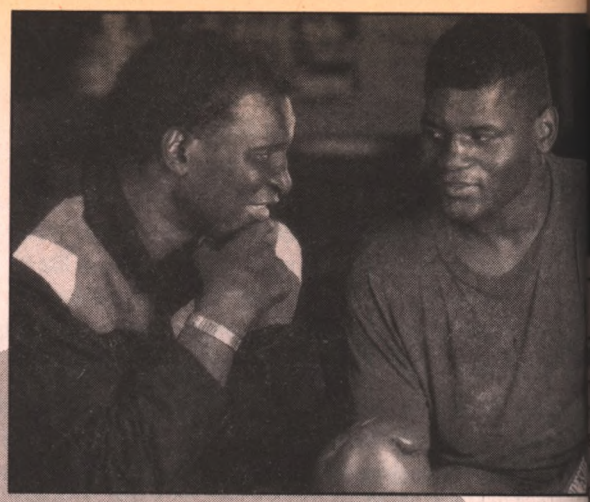
Leonard was always the innovator, the artist, and Hagler was so machine-like that he could have worn a Black & Decker label on his trunks. Yet, ironically, it is Hagler who has forged a new life for himself, who has adapted and never looked back, while rumors of another Sugar-coated comeback continue to surface to this day.

Hagler once told me he filled many a daydream with thoughts of Leonard pinned in a corner. He took more long drives through the New England countryside than he can remember, popping an Anita Baker cassette into the stereo and convincing himself, while the leaves changed colors around him and the music filled the car, how much different a rematch would be. Then one day he realized chasing a man around the ring is just one small way to prove one's toughness. Giving up the security blanket of handlers and cheering crowds, getting on with a new, unknown chapter of your life, and remaining true to your word, is another.

Marvelous Marvin, it turns out, had always been right. He *was* tougher than the rest. He just had to put away the gloves to prove it. ■

Hagler spends most of his time in Italy, but in June he traveled to Canastota, New York, where he was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.

New Faces

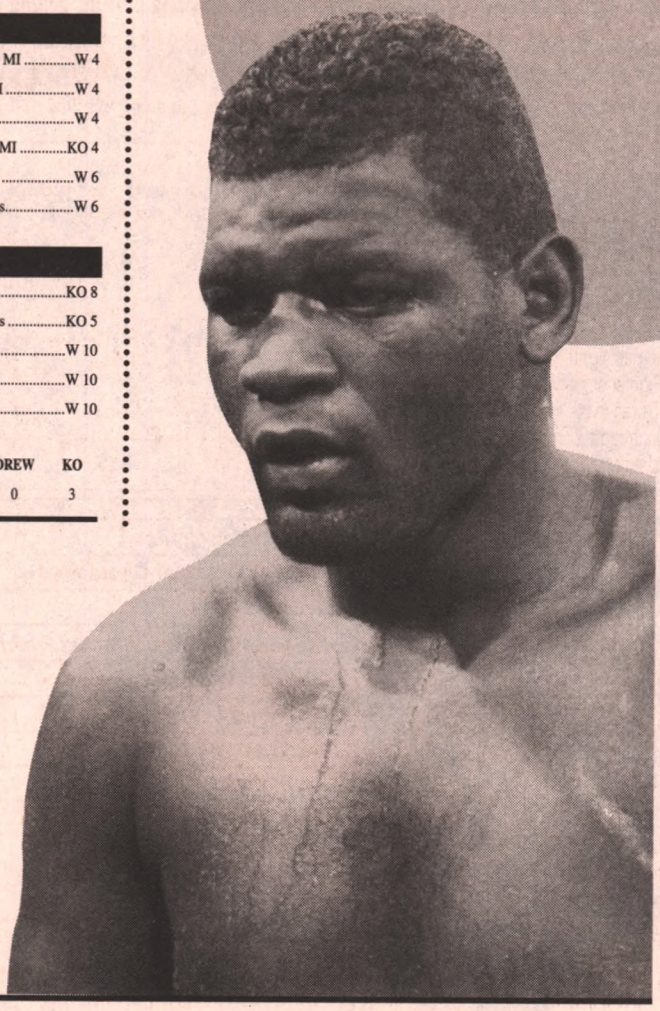


Buster instructs Buster: Dad always knows best.

Buster Mathis Jr.

Heavyweight

By Steve Farhood



No matter what he gives in the
no matter if he becomes a m
heavyweight champion and
vides thrills for millions of fans, B
Mathis Jr. can never pay back boxing.
funny thing: Growing up in a funct
middle-class family, Mathis hardly se
a candidate for the kind of salvation b
generally provides the poor and hungry
had he never laced a pair of gloves, it s
him to think what might have been.

As a 15-year-old high school sopho
in Grand Rapids, Michigan, M
weighed 325 pounds. When he tried to
basketball or football, he found out just
cruel his classmates could be. He
painfully shy, and his grades were aby
so he spent all of his time watching T
his room. Girlfriends? Not with his
esteem registering in the negative.
when his mother brought home
groceries, he dove into the Doritos
cookies with passion, and when his f
gave him his allowance, he motore
McDonald's.

"School wasn't fun for me so I d
study, and I didn't want to go out and
or nothing," he recalled. "I was las
everything. The wrestlers, the foot
players had dates. They were popular. I

(Continued on pag

PRO RECORD

1991		
Dec. 9	James Wilder, Waukesha, WI	W 4
1992		
Feb. 8	Warren Williams, Lansing, MI	W 4
March 4	Tracy Thomas, Livonia, MI	W 4
March 21	Luis Torres, Cleveland	W 4
April 21	Tim Martin, Auburn Hills, MI	KO 4
April 25	Jordan Keepers, Beloit, WI	W 6
Sept. 22	Tyrone Evans, Auburn Hills	W 6
1993		
Feb. 14	Justin Fortune, Las Vegas	KO 8
June 15	Carl Williams, Auburn Hills	KO 5
July 10	Levi Billups, Bushkill, PA	W 10
Aug. 7	Mark Young, Atlantic City	W 10
Oct. 2	Mike Dixon, Atlantic City	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	12	12	0	0	3

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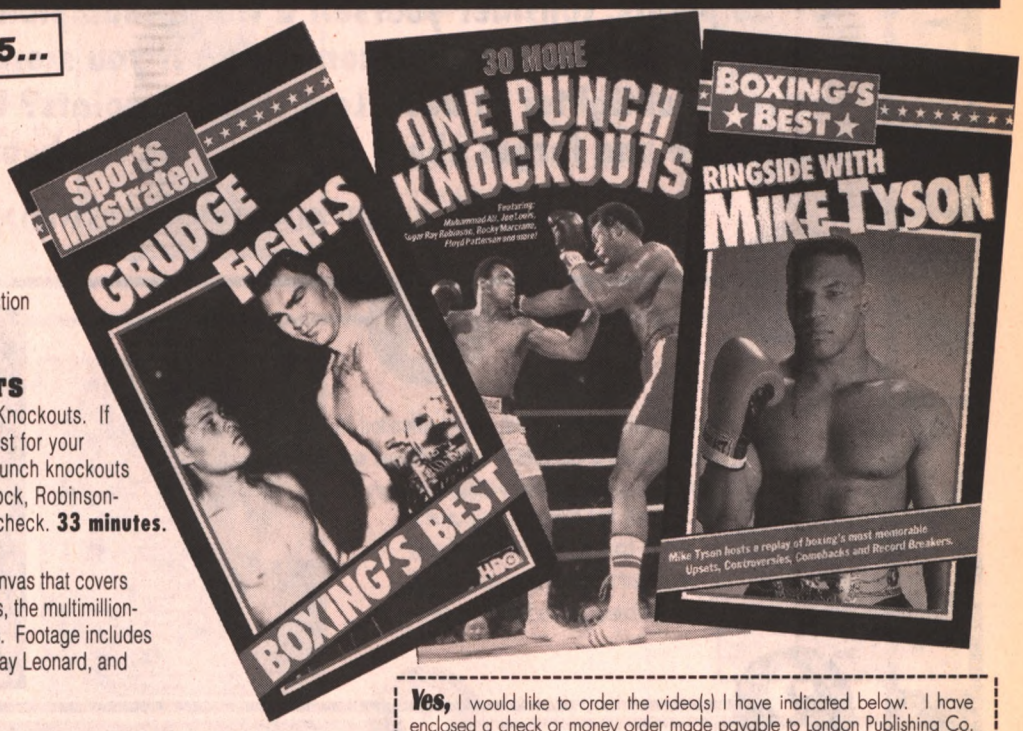

GRUDGE FIGHTS
The greatest grudge fights in boxing history are presented in this non-stop action video. See Jack Dempsey try to regain the title from Gene Tunney and Joe Louis seek revenge against Max Schmeling. Watch Joe Walcott battle Ezzard Charles and Rocky Marciano in epic wars, the Ali Frazier trilogy, plus a collection of rare footage that recounts boxing's most memorable bouts. **58 minutes.**

MORE ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
The exciting followup to Great One-Punch Knockouts. If you like knockout action, this video is a must for your collection. You'll see these fantastic one-punch knockouts and many more: Ali-Liston II, Louis-Braddock, Robinson-Fullmer, Patterson-Johansson II, Louis-Paycheck. **33 minutes.**

RINGSIDE WITH MIKE TYSON
Mike Tyson puts it all together in a colorful canvas that covers the main events, the controversies, the upsets, the multimillion-dollar gates, the records, and the comebacks. Footage includes Sonny Liston, Jake LaMotta, Ray Robinson, Ray Leonard, and much more. **44 minutes.**

THE MIDDLEWEIGHTS
The most skillful and devastating middleweights in the history of boxing are profiled in this fast-moving video. Watch stellar performances by Stanley Ketchel, Sugar Ray Robinson, and Marcel Cerdan. Also includes Rocky Graziano, Jake LaMotta, Carlos Monzon, and many others. Hosted by Curt Gowdy and Floyd Patterson. **58 minutes.**

BOXING'S GREATEST CHAMPIONS
Match wits with the Boxing Writers of America as they choose the best fighter of all-time from each division and then debate who deserves the title of the Greatest Fighter of All-Time. Includes explosive fight footage of Henry Armstrong, Benny Leonard, and Roberto Duran in the lightweight division; welterweights Barney Ross, Henry Armstrong, and Ray Robinson; middleweights Mickey Walker, Carlos Monzon, and Ray Robinson; light heavyweights Bob Fitzsimmons, Billy Conn, and Archie Moore; heavyweights Muhammad Ali, Rocky Marciano, and Joe Louis. **60 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: "THE BIG PUNCHERS"
The biggest draw in sports today is the heavyweight knockout artist. This hard-hitting video explores boxing's most famous punchers. A sample of the action included in this video are clips of Dempsey's savage victory over Willard, the second Louis-Schmeling fight, Marciano vs. Walcott, and Frazier vs. Ali. **59 minutes.**

GREAT ONE-PUNCH KNOCKOUTS
You've got a ringside seat for a heart-stopping lineup of boxing's most exciting knockouts, including Muhammad Ali-George Foreman, Ezzard Charles-Joe Walcott, Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons, Rocky Marciano-Joe Walcott, Sugar Ray Robinson-Rocky Graziano, and many more. **30 minutes.**

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS: THE STYLISTS
Host Curt Gowdy highlights the careers of the sport's finest boxers. Beginning with Jim Corbett, you'll see challengers throughout history battle in some of the most striking film coverage ever assembled. Jack Johnson displays exquisite defensive skills, Floyd Patterson shows off his peek-a-boo style, Gene Tunney demonstrates the scientific approach to boxing, and Muhammad Ali exhibits the skills that made him "The Greatest," plus Walcott, Charles, and Louis. **57 minutes.**

TYSON AND THE HEAVYWEIGHTS
Join Mike Tyson as he takes a tour through the history of the heavyweight division. Tyson adds his own insight as he analyzes the styles and lives of the men who wore the heavyweight crown before him. This fantastic video includes rare footage of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, and, of course, Tyson himself. **51 minutes.**

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THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

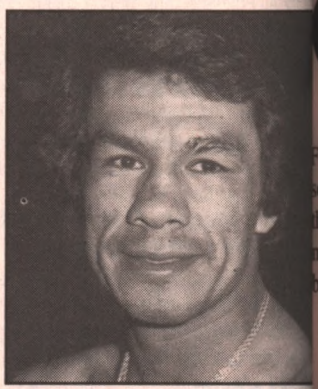
PHOTO QUIZ TEST

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-8 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

THIS MONTH: CHAMPIONSHIP-QUALITY FIGHTERS WHO NEVER WON A WORLD TI

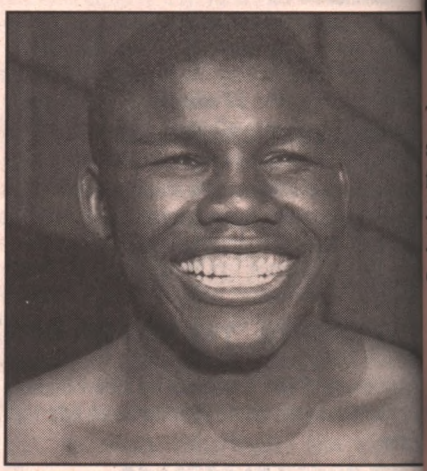
1

This popular Californian, who contended in the '70s and '80s, fought for the title in two divisions and on more than one occasion came so very close to victory.



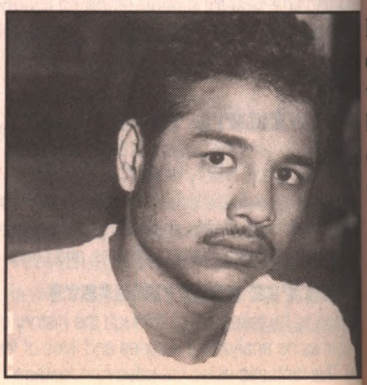
2

A contender at both light heavyweight and heavyweight, this Cleveland campaigner beat, among others, Archie Moore, Gus Lesnevich, Joey Maxim, Lee Savold, and Ezzard Charles. Incredibly, he never fought for a title.



3

How can a fighter remain unbeaten and never fight for the title? This junior middleweight was sentenced to prison, cutting short a potentially fantastic career.



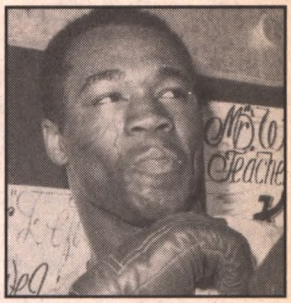
YOUR BOXING IQ

4

Philadelphia has produced more near-champions than any other city. This left-handed lightweight is best remembered for twice testing the legendary Benny Leonard.

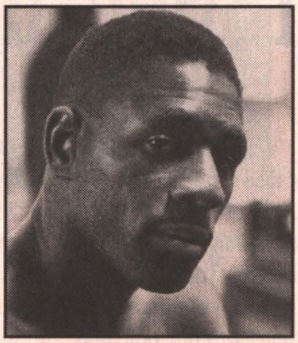
5

This talented light heavyweight was the best fighter ever exported by Peru. A detached retina cost him his try at the world title.



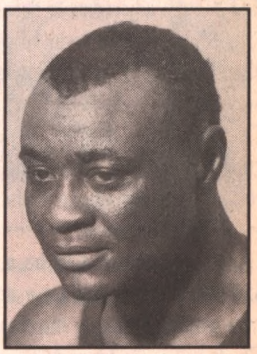
6

Florentino Fernandez got a title shot, and so did Rubin Carter and Spider Webb. But this master boxer was shut out. As good a middleweight as he was, he's an even better trainer.



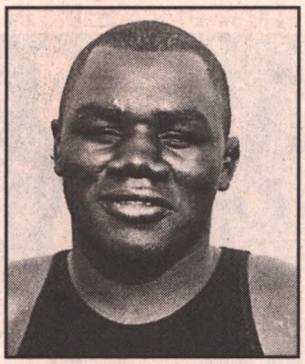
7

Politics cost this top-rated heavyweight. He was black, champion Jack Dempsey was white, and promoter Tex Rickard, mindful of what happened during Jack Johnson's tumultuous reign, wanted no part of the matchup.



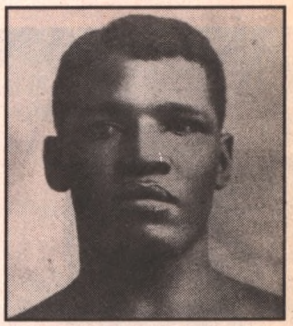
8

This tough New Englander stood 5'8" and scaled anywhere from 139 to 204 pounds. He fought several champions, including Jack Johnson, Stanley Ketchel, and Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, but was denied a chance at the championship.



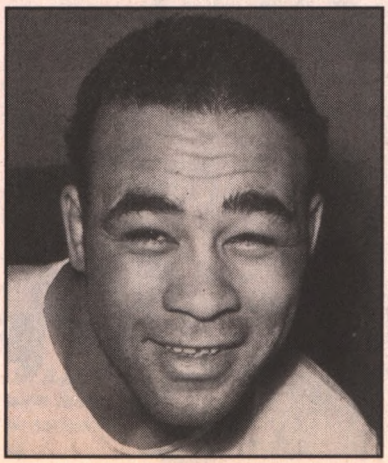
9

The color line cost this classic boxer an opportunity to challenge heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan. He proved his mettle, however, in a 61-round no-contest vs. Jim Corbett.



10

In the late-'30s and early-'40s, this extraordinary boxer challenged welterweights, middleweights, even heavyweights. Many historians consider him the greatest fighter to never win a world title.



ANSWERS:

1) Yaqui Lopez
2) Jimmy Bivins
3) Tony Ayala Jr.
4) Lew Tendler
5) Mauro Mina
6) George Benton
7) Harry Wills
8) Sam Langford
9) Peter Jackson
10) Charley Burley

WBA WELTERWEIGH CHAMP FELIX TRINIDAD

The Latest Sensation O A Don King Creation?

By Nigel Collins

Bang! Splat! Maurice Blocker goes down on his face and Felix "Tito" Trinidad is the new IBF welterweight champion.

Boom! Thud! Luis Garcia crumples and Trinidad's first successful defense is history.

In less than three rounds of combat the baby-faced assassin from the rural hamlet of Cupey Alto, Puerto Rico, rockets from relative obscurity to become one of the hottest properties in boxing. Everyone is excited: Promoter Don King can't find enough adjectives to describe his latest protege. Showtime can't wait to get him back on the tube. Manager Yamil Chade says Trinidad's not only ready to fight Pernell Whitaker, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Crisanto Espana, but predicts knockout victories. Then comes a chilling reality check in the form of one Anthony Stephens.

Anthony Stephens?

It was supposed to be a gimme, a quick $50,000 payday against a no-name opponent who would go quietly into the good night, or as Chade put it, "a favor to Don King for helping Felix win the title."

Some favor!

In the third round of their October 23, 1993, title bout at the Ft. Lauderdale Convention Center, Stephens bounced a straight right off the champion's chin and suddenly Trinidad looked like he was doing a funky version of the mambo. One knee dipped to the floor, one glove brushed the canvas, and then he stumbled backward like a drunkard looking for a bar wall to lean against.

Stephens, 145, Bogalusa, Louisiana, th few more swipes, then, probably realizing s one should have been counting, stopped pu ing and looked over his shoulder at referee Connors (USA). The third man, who h claimed he was "behind the fighters and di

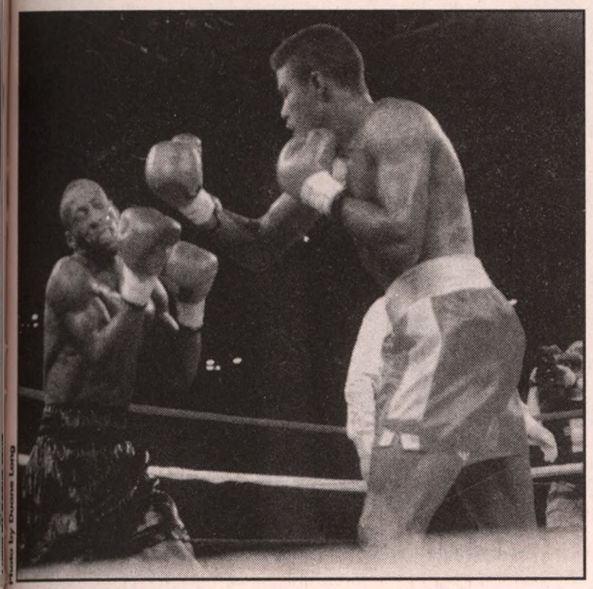


Photo by Dianne Long

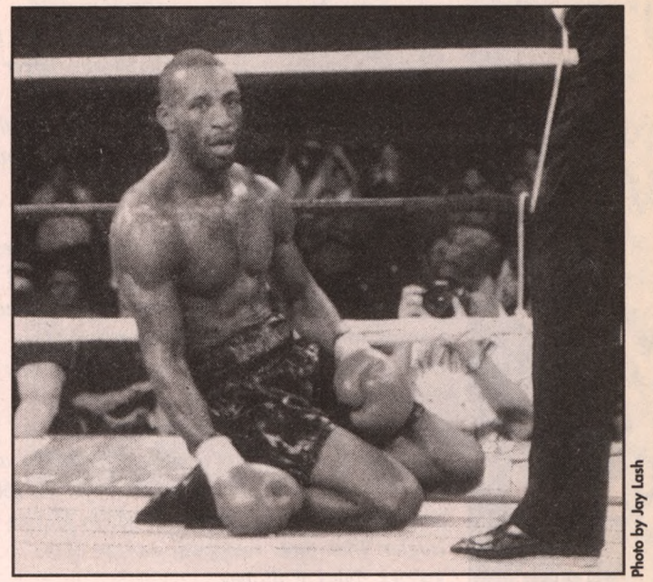


Photo by Jay Lash

In his second defense of the IBF welterweight crown, Trinidad rose from an unofficial knockdown to punish Anthony Stephens (left) and score a 10th-round stoppage (right).

see the knee and glove touch," indicated action should proceed uninterrupted, thus depriving the 11th-rated challenger of a two-point margin for the round and something to tell his grandchildren about.

Trinidad, 147, recovered swiftly and charged back into the fray, bent on quick and unequivocal retribution. He finally succeeded in pummeling Stephens, 19-6-2 (10), into submission, but it took until 2:59 of the 10th round, and not before his unheralded and supposedly outclassed opponent connected with more than a few additional rights. In the end, the brave and beleaguered Stephens slumped down for the full count, more exhausted than anything else.

At the time of the stoppage, Trinidad led on all three cards. Bob Balogh and Dr. Clark Sammartino both had it 87-84, and Gary Merritt 88-83. All three judges are from the USA.

The surprisingly demanding victory elevated Trinidad to 22-0 (19), but also raised numerous questions. For beginners, were we deceived by his brutal blitz of Blocker and merciless massacre of Garcia? After all, Blocker had been wobbly ever since Simon Brown starched him in 1991, and Garcia was best-known for losing title fights against Meldrick Taylor and Blocker. Maybe we all got too enthusiastic, too soon. Now we have to wonder if the Stephens fight revealed heretofore undetected deficiencies in Trinidad's makeup.

"Anybody and everybody gets hit," said two-division former champion Bobby Czyz, who analyzed Trinidad-Stephens for Showtime. "Kevin Howard put Sugar Ray Leonard down. It's just one of those things. Trinidad got careless and Stephens tagged him. He's vulnerable just like everybody else."

But what about the fact that Trinidad buckled from a single punch delivered by an obscure journeyman?

"He doesn't exactly have a concrete chin," allowed Czyz. "But when a fighter strings together three or four easy wins, he often develops a sense of indestructibility. And that can be dangerous."

Other observers think the 20-year-old

(Continued on page 53)

Photo by Jay Lash

Trinidad is trained by his father Felix Sr. (left), a former professional who reigned as Puerto Rican featherweight champion in the late-'70s. Assistant trainer Juan Guzman is seen on the right.

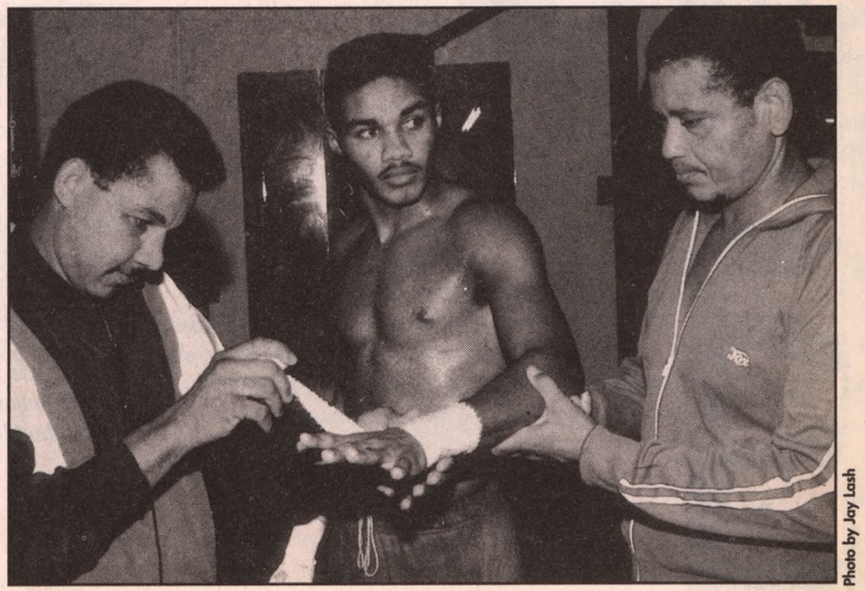
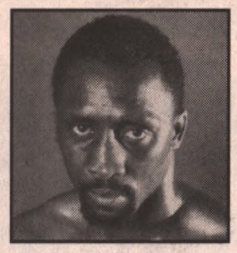


Photo by Jay Lash

Super Middleweights

Thomas Hearns

Detroit, Michigan
Career: 1977-Present
51-4-1 with 41 kayos



The "Hit Man" was the most electrifying fighter of the '80s, owning a devastating right hand that could drop welterweights and light heavyweights alike.

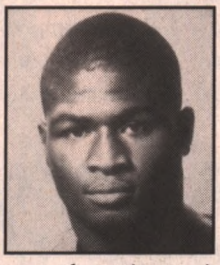
Hearns was at his best as a welterweight, knocking out 30 of his first 32 opponents. His first title shot came against Pipino Cuevas, whom he destroyed in two rounds. In a unification bout the next year, he was stopped by Sugar Ray Leonard.

Hearns went on to win titles at junior middleweight, light heavyweight, middleweight, and light heavyweight again. In his first try for the 160-pound crown, he was stopped in 1985 by Marvin Hagler. Their three-round war was one of the greatest fights of all-time.

Hearns is coming off an impressive first-round kayo of Andrew Maynard in November.

James Toney

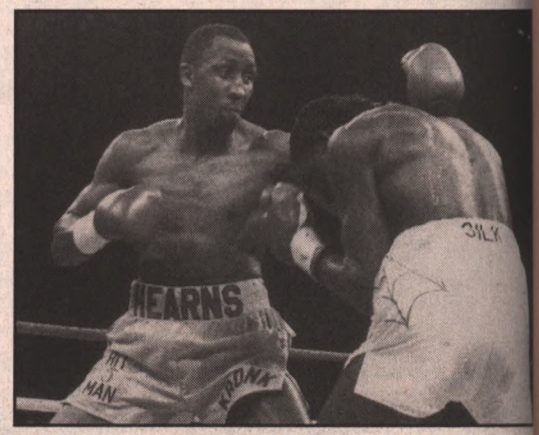
Ann Arbor, Michigan
Career: 1988-Present
40-0-2 with 26 kayos



IBF super middleweight champion James Toney is one of the best fighters in the world. He won his first title in May 1991, scoring a come-from-behind 11th-round TKO of IBF middleweight champion Michael Nunn. After six somewhat unimpressive defenses, he moved up to the more comfortable 168-pound class and challenged IBF champion Iran Barkley. Toney never looked better. as he closed Barkley's eyes with combinations and earning a ninth-round TKO victory.

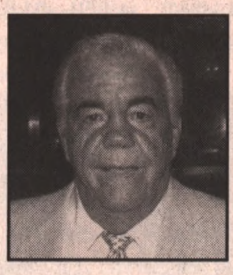
Toney's fierce determination and anger help separate him from other champions. He is a skilled infighter and defensive master, able to make his opponents miss while mounting an accurate attack of his own.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of the Legends," the editors of THE RING *play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.*



Hearns began as a welterweight, but at 168 pounds he was still quick enough to outbox Michael Olajide. The "Hit Man" won a 12-round decision in April 19

LOU DUVA

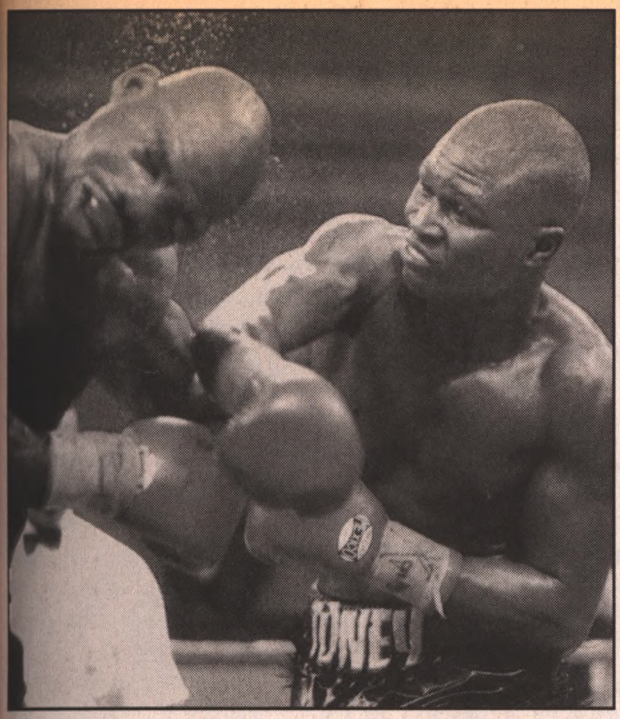


Hearns at 168 was still a very strong fighter. Sure, his best years came at a lower weight, probably welterweight, but he'd lost only a little of the exceptional speed that made him a great boxer and still had the power that made him a dangerous puncher. Tommy has that great left jab, and when he combined it with his right hand, he could always keep people honest.

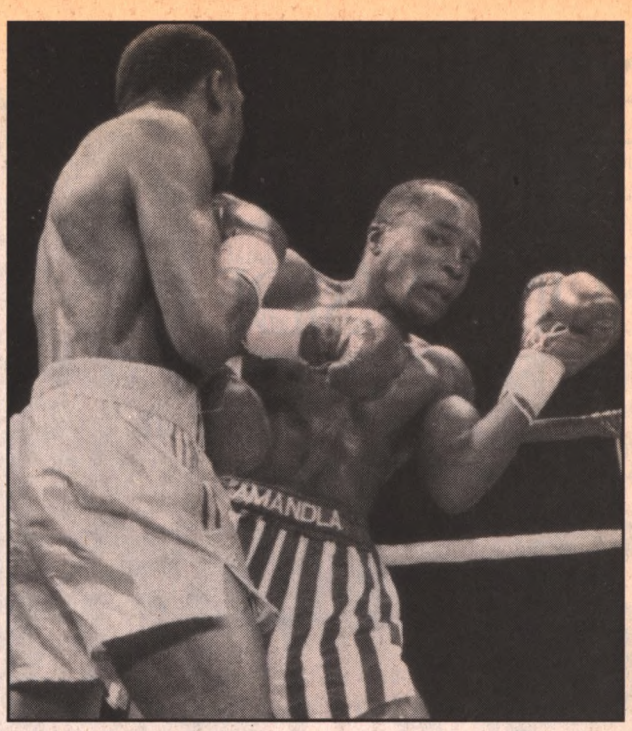
Toney is a great fighter under pressure. He always gets up for a big fight. He can really take some shots, too, and has good, but not outstanding, power at this weight.

This would be a great fight, very entertaining, with the good possibility of each fighter getting knocked down. One question about Hearns might be his legs: Would they last against a fighter like Toney? I think so. Tommy's boxing style would keep Toney off of him. He would be especially effective with his outstanding jab. I see Hearns wearing down Toney from the outside and scoring a late knockout somewhere between the 10th and 12th rounds.

Lou Duva is among the most successful managers and trainers in boxing. Among his charges: Pernell Whitaker, John-John Molina, Egerton Marcus, and Tim Littles.



Toney's debut at super middleweight was a devastating ninth-round stoppage of Iran Barkley in February. Toney outfought "The Blade" both inside and out.



Hearns' most satisfying bout at 168 pounds came in June 1989, when he twice floored arch-rival Sugar Ray Leonard en route to a controversial 12-round draw.

MICHAEL OLAJIDE

Hearns can still surprise you, even with the extra weight. At 168 he really hadn't lost much speed, and still had that Hearns knockout punch. As he got a little older, he began to look for the one-punch kayo. At welterweight, he knew the knockout would come on its own.

Toney is a throwback, a very determined fighter who does what he has to do to win. He is always able to bring his game up a step when necessary and has that hunger you can see on his face. He really doesn't get his due when it comes to technique—he rolls with punches so well. He has deceiving hand speed and hurts you with combinations, not one punch.

Both fighters have great heart, but Tommy lost just a little bit of intensity over the years. If Toney would give Hearns too much space, Hearns could beat him from the outside. But I see Toney setting a brisk pace, taking Tommy out of his game, and hurting him on the inside. This would be a fight of fortitude, with Toney winning by unanimous decision.

Michael Olajide is a former middleweight contender. In April 1990, he lost by decision to Hearns in a 12-round super middleweight matchup.

LARRY MERCHANT

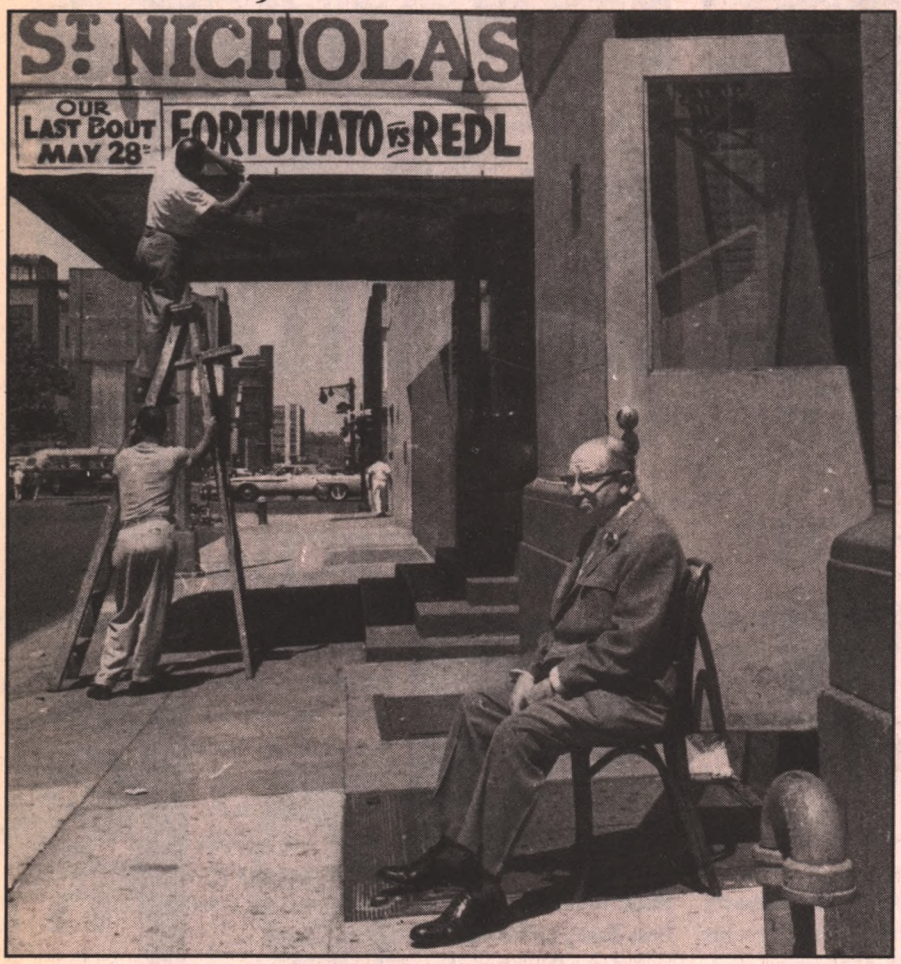
Hearns was uncommonly strong as a welterweight and still very strong as a middleweight. But the more he moved up, the less dominant he became. Tommy's peak was not at 168. His best performances at the higher weights have been a result of his boxing ability, not his power. He stayed away from Virgil Hill and beat him from a safe distance. To beat Toney he would have to outbox him.

I don't think we've seen the best of Toney yet. The public's perception of him went way up after his great performance against Barkley, a man who beat Hearns twice. He is definitely better at 168 than at 160, with more strength and conditioning. He has all the qualities of a champion: He's a great boxer-puncher, throws accurate volleys, does not get hit a lot, and always finds a way to win.

Toney is naturally bigger and would handle anything Hearns would give him. But Hearns wouldn't hold up against Toney's shots. Toney would make him miss and then make him pay. Toney by late TKO, probably in the 10th.

Larry Merchant, a boxing analyst for HBO, is one of the most respected voices in boxing. ■

ST. NICK'S ... THE OLYMPIC ... SUNNYSIDE GARDEN



WHERE HAVE ALL THE FIGHT CLUBS GONE?

By Robert Cassidy

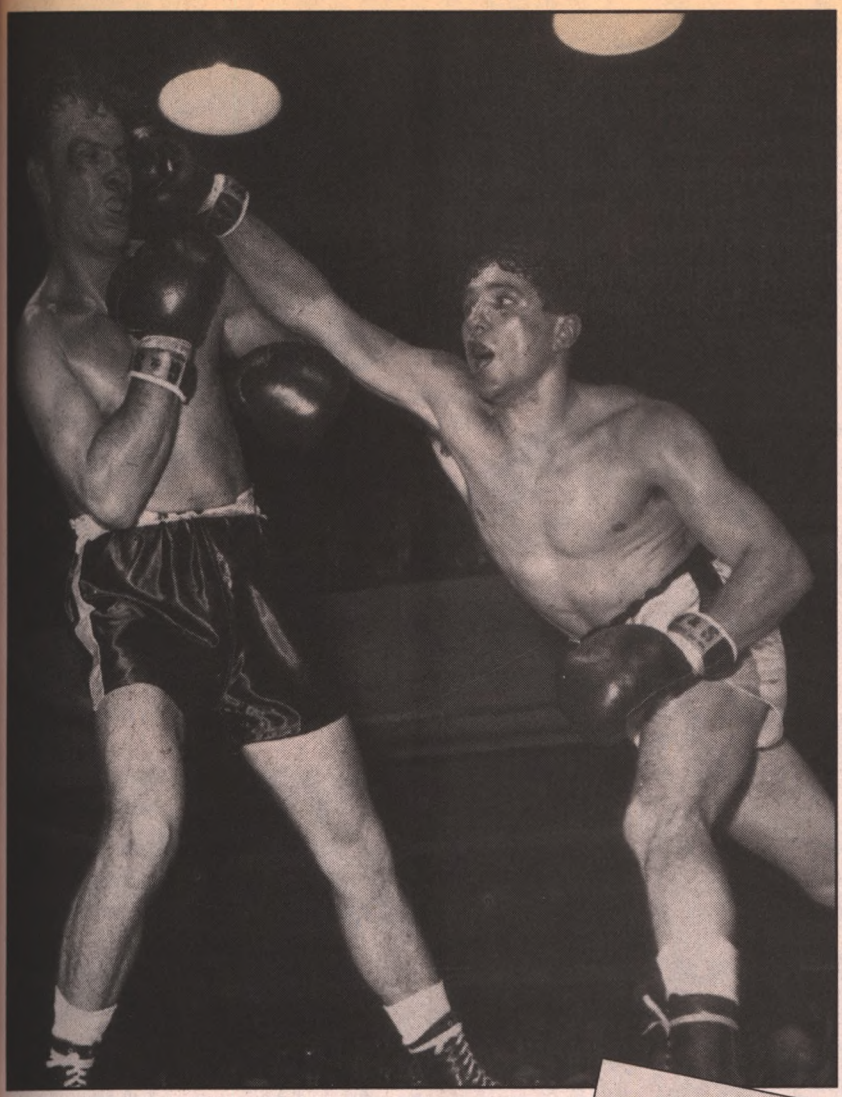
(First of two parts)

Once upon a time in New York City, b ing was the only sport that mattered made Madison Square Garden the wo renowned arena that it is today. To reach ma event status at the Garden was the goal ev fighters strived for. It signified arrival to the time. There was, however, a price to pay bef reaching such a level and the fighters in a around New York paid their dues in the cit small fight clubs.

From the Roaring Twenties through the Ge Depression and several years beyond World W II, small fight clubs were thriving throughout t country in locales such as Boston, Philadelph St. Louis, Cleveland, Detroit, and Chicago. B New York City was the hub of the boxing wo and small club arenas were where the world's b fighters were nurtured.

The club fight arena was actually boxing first step toward civility. While legislators alt nately embraced and outlawed boxing sever times around the turn of the century, fights w held in the backrooms of saloons, isolated lots on floating barges. In 1900, after Jim Corb knocked out Kid McCoy in the very first Madis Square Garden, which was an abandoned railro terminal, boxing was again banished in Ne York. But business was booming and no o cared to take the game back underground afloat. So private boxing clubs were form Managers, trainers, referees, and fighte belonged to specific clubs and paid members dues—hence the term clubfighter. It was dur this era that the St. Nicholas Arena began host boxing cards in 1906. The fights were priv affairs, open to club members only, and interf ence from the police was virtually non-existent.

By 1920, legalized boxing was again the n



Eddie "Pigeon" Lynch connects against Charlie Cummings during their battle at St. Nick's in 1958. Lynch scored a ninth-round TKO. But where are the birds?

of the city and small clubs began developing all over town. If you were a fighter, you had a place to work nearly every night, and if you were a fan, it was heaven. Entire neighborhoods flocked to small arenas to root for one of their own. Ringside was thick with celebrities, ex-pugs, or wise guys in fedoras. The mystique of boxing was shaped, and the memories of that era are captured in old B movies, grainy black-and-white photos, and faded yellow fight posters.

As boxing's Golden Age approached, club arenas took on a life of their own. They were as much a part of the city's social scene as its theaters, restaurants, and museums. Over the course of 30 years, there seemed to be a club for each neighborhood in the five boroughs. The Manhattan Center and St. Nick's were the main venues in Manhattan. Brooklyn contained places such as the Broadway Arena, the Ridgewood Grove Arena, the Eastern Parkway Arena, and open-air venues such as the Fort Hamilton Bowl and the Coney Island Velodrome. To the north, the Bronx housed the Lion's Palace and later the Bronx Coliseum. And in Queens, there was the Jamaica Arena, the Queensboro Arena, and Sunnyside Garden.

The evenings consisted of a five-bout minimum, beer on tap, thick cigar smoke, and male bonding—before the term was even considered. The formula for success was simple: Use local fighters and focus on matchups between different ethnic groups. There were unsanctioned bouts in the crowd, but it was all part of the milieu. Neon lights, round-card girls, and sequined trunks? Not here.

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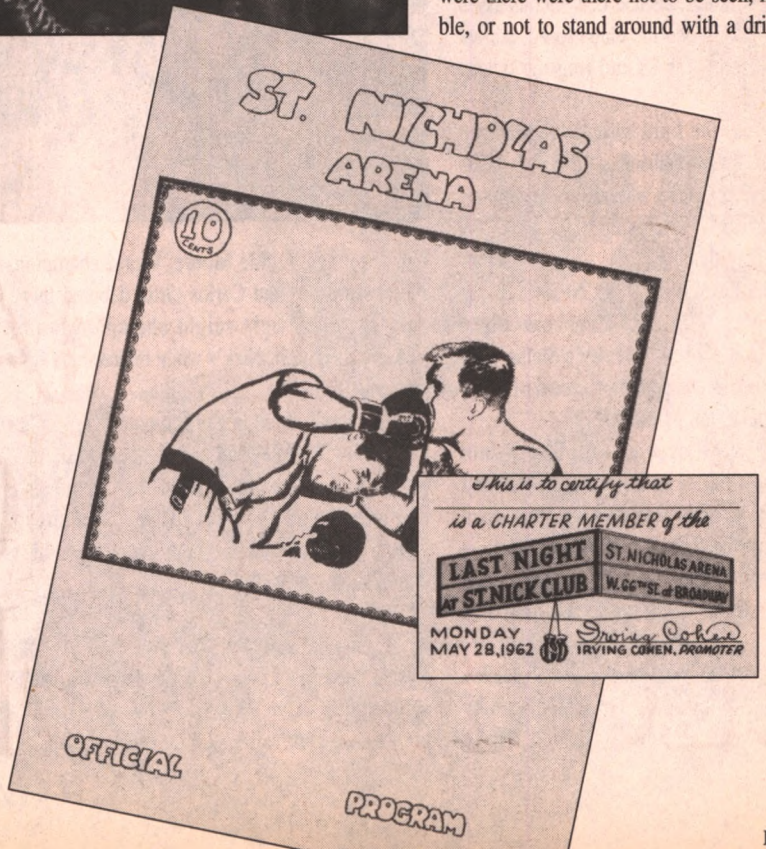
The grandfather of all New York City fight clubs was St. Nicholas Arena, on West 66th Street. In 1896, it was the country's first indoor ice skating rink, but for the next 66 years it became known as the country's foremost fight club. Depending on which newspaper clips you believe, anywhere from 10,000 to 30,000 amateur and pro fights were staged at St. Nick's. When it was razed in 1962 in favor of a 40-story ABC-TV studio and office complex, it was the longest-running club still offering boxing 52 weeks a year.

"There was always a war at St. Nick's," said veteran trainer Lou Duva. "Every time you went, you saw the same old cronies. The people who were there were there not to be seen, not to gamble, or not to stand around with a drink in their



hand. They came for the local kids. When St. Nick's ran shows with continuity, it was a way of life."

It was indeed the quintessential fight club. The arena held approximately 2,000, and it was usually filled. Its fans were rowdy and boisterous, and in addition to hosting world-class fights, it was the site of several world-class riots. Among the worst incidents of violence occurred after Emile Griffith was given an unpopular decision over Jorge Fernandez in 1960, and when Bronx welterweight Tony Fortunato was awarded a split decision over Gil Diaz in 1962.

"St. Nick's was the best of all the clubs," said Al Braverman, a former manager and trainer and now the director of boxing for Don King Productions. "The Broadway Arena rates second. But St. Nick's had an overhanging balcony. You could see from anywhere up there. Looking down at the ring was sensational. Those seats were better than ringside."

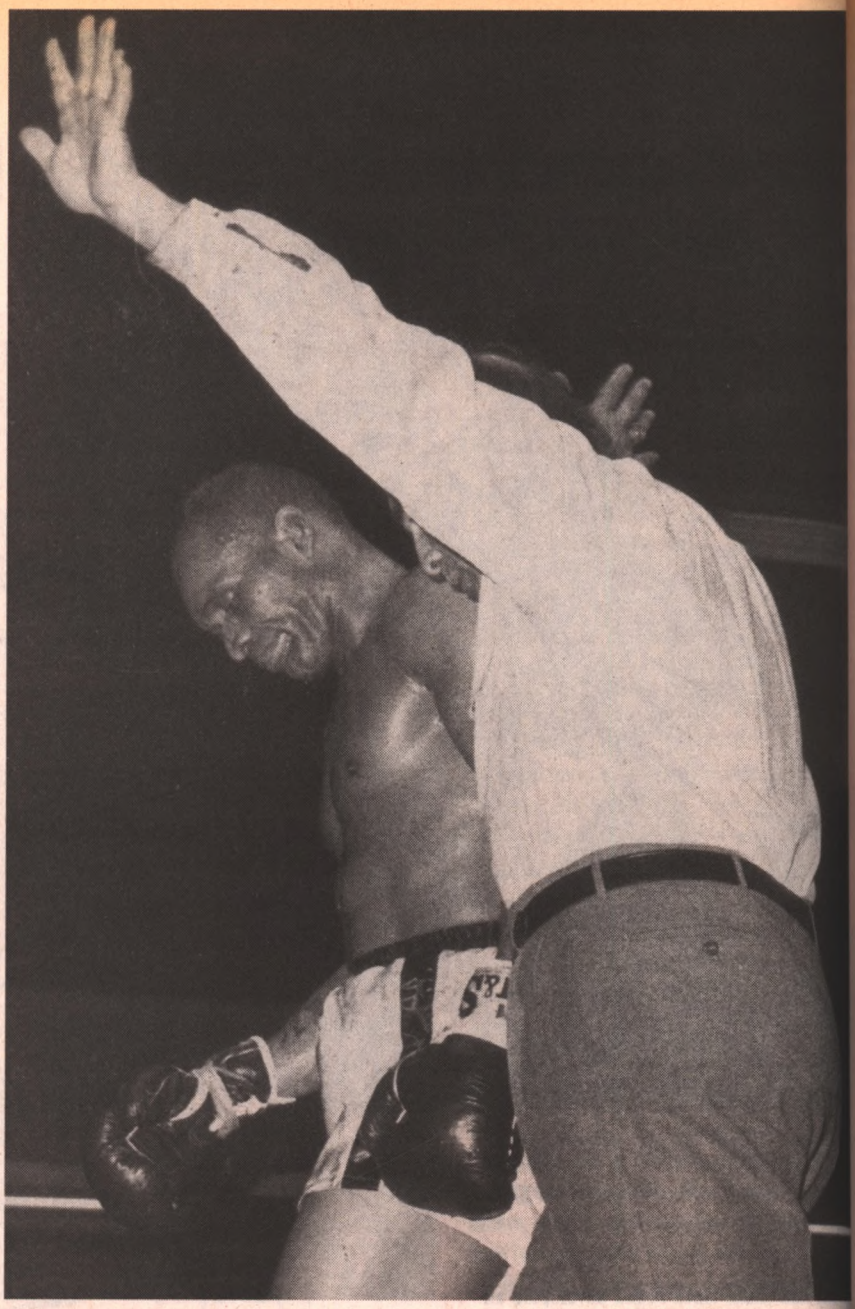
When the action in the ring failed to quench the crowd's appetite for mayhem, the boys in the balcony notified the combatants with a chorus of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Among the other derisive calls that cascaded from above: "Go back to the docks!" ... "I got the next dance!" ... "Put out the lights, they want to be alone!"

Whenever clubfighter Eddie "Pigeon" Lynch fought, his followers smuggled in pigeons under their coats and set them free at the opening bell. The highest compliment a fighter earned came when the rowdies pounded the seats of their wooden chairs or the hollow facade that encompassed the balcony. At the time the club closed, admission to the balcony was $3 and ringside tickets went for $5.

St. Nicks was the farm system for Madison Square Garden, which subsidized the club in its later years. Irving Cohen was its last promoter, and he issued cards on closing night that read "This is to certify that _____ is a Charter Member of the Last Night at St. Nick Club." It was Monday, May 28, 1962, and Fortunato won a 10-round decision over New Jersey's Stefan Redl in the main event. A disappointing crowd of 1,117 showed up for St. Nick's final bell.

"It was a very special building," said Fortunato, now a trainer on Long Island. "I didn't realize what it meant to fight the last main event there until after the fight. I read the newspapers and I read about all the people who fought there. Then I understood the history. It was really something."

Among the greats who graced the St. Nick's ring were Sam Langford, Abe Attell, Stanley Ketchel, Jack Johnson, Johnny Dundee, Rocky Graziano, and Archie Moore. World champions Floyd Patterson and Carlos Ortiz debuted there, and legendary lightweight champion Benny Leonard died at St. Nick's while refereeing a fight on April 18, 1947.



Former light heavyweight champion Harold Johnson, 42, knows his career is over as referee Johnny LoBianco stops the veteran's battle with Herschel Jacobs at Sunnyside Garden in 1971.

The small clubs began fading in New York City by 1950. Televised boxing was on the rise and so were operating costs. If other events, like pro wrestling, political rallies, or dances, couldn't pay the rent, the buildings were sold or demolished.

***

Among the struggling clubs of the early-'50s was the Eastern Parkway Arena in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Emil Lence opened the building as an indoor roller skating rink in 1945 and lost money each time he promoted a boxing show. That changed on May 12, 1952, when Lence and a young matchmaker named Teddy Brenner received an infusion of cash from the DuMont Television Network. Brenner's matchmaking talent coupled with DuMont's investment (main-eventers were paid a hefty $3,000 each) helped Eastern Parkway become one of the hottest boxing venues in New York.

"I think Eastern Parkway ranks up there with all the great clubs," said retired boxing publicist

Irving Rudd, who worked there for two years. "The fighters came out of poverty-stricken neighborhoods and they fought hard. The atmosphere in there was electric. The club itself was exciting because the fans made it so. They followed all the fighters."

Brenner had a knack for getting local favorites and top contenders knocked off, and the arena came to be known as "The House Of Upsets." Patterson lost his first pro fight at Eastern Parkway, dropping an eight-round decision to 32-year-old former light heavyweight king Joey Maxim. Future lightweight champion Paddy DeMarco was upset by Arthur King, and a 22-year-old Joey Giardello toppled world-ranked Billy Graham.

Of all the underdogs who had their day at Eastern Parkway, perhaps none captured the public like Joe "Soldier" Miceli. A World War II veteran from Lower Manhattan, Miceli upset number-one lightweight contender Luther Rawlings and top-10 welterweight Pierre Langlois in televised bouts. Such performances earned him a world ranking and fights against the likes of Ike Williams, Kid Gavilan, and Johnny Saxton, whom he knocked out at the Garden in 1957.

"I was the underdog in most of my fights," said Miceli, who graduated from the Broadway Arena to Eastern Parkway and finally the Garden. "It was the House of Upsets because that's how Teddy Brenner made it. When I fought, all of Brooklyn and all of New York came out. It was an exciting place to fight at."

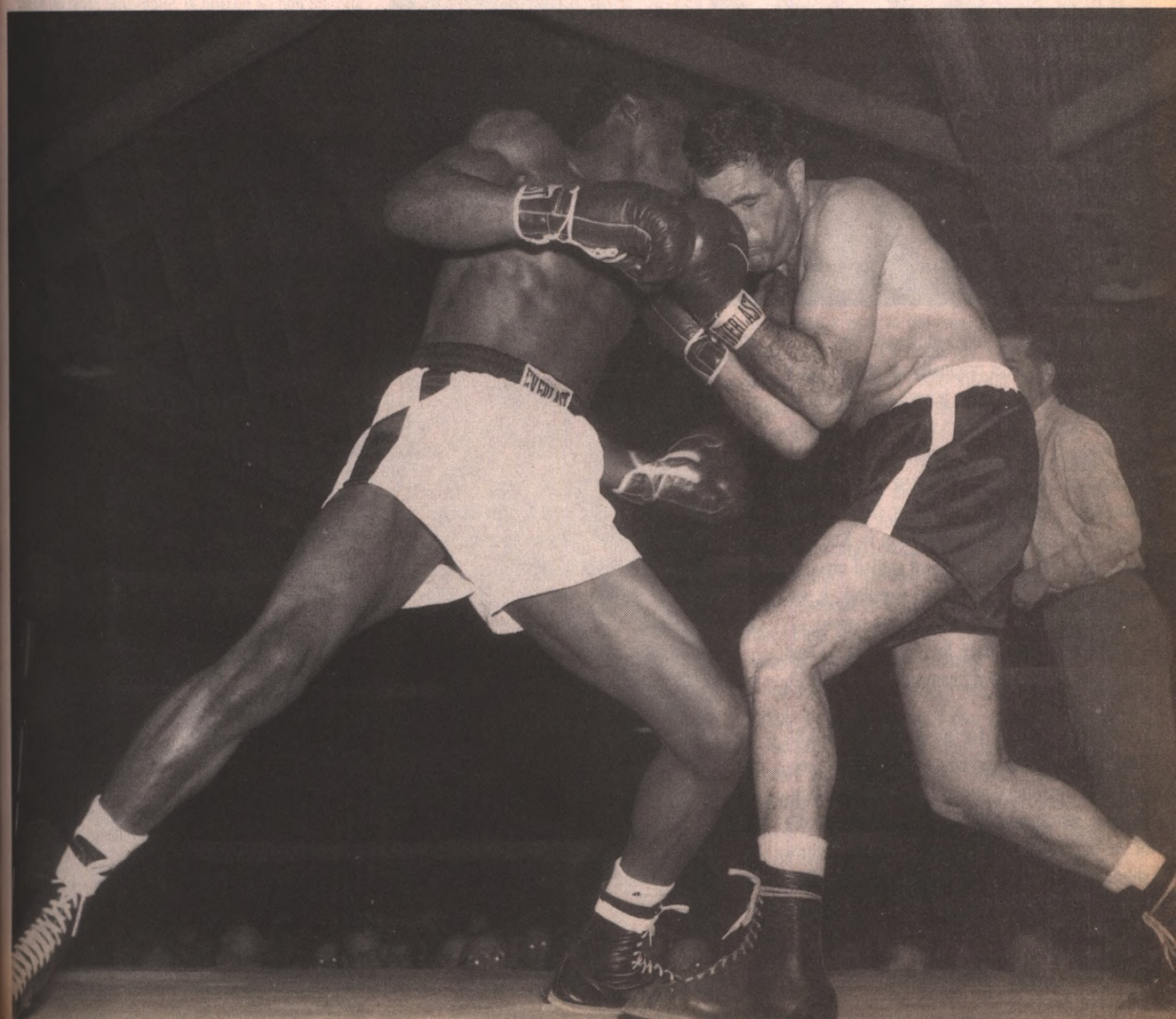
The excitement vanished from Eastern Parkway once the TV money was removed. After starting with DuMont, Lence signed a contract with ABC for the club's third season. But the network opted not to renew with Lence after it bought the International Boxing Club's Wednesday night fights in 1955. Lence proposed to sell his Monday night air time to WPIX, but New York State Athletic Commission Chairman Julius Helfand refused to approve the application because it would create direct competition with the televised fights from St. Nick's, which were now being made by Brenner and televised by DuMont.

The ride ended at Eastern Parkway after three years and 156 shows. In the last main event, Hardy "Bazooka" Smallwood won a split decision over Bob Provizzi in 1955.

***

With St. Nick's kayoed by a wrecking ball six years later, the club venues in New York were on the verge of extinction. The lone glimmer of hope was a message promoter Cohen left his loyal customers on the bottom of the Fortunato-Redl program: "Here's hoping we see you in autumn at a new location."

With the financial support of Madison Square Garden, Cohen's new fight site became Sunnyside Garden. The location seemed ideal. The red-brick building was located on Queens Boulevard, the borough's busiest street. It was a 10-minute drive from Manhattan and two blocks from the Number



Fights like Joey Maxim-Floyd Patterson helped the Eastern Parkway Arena gain its reputation as "The House Of Upsets." In 1954, former light heavyweight champion Maxim surprised the previously unbeaten Patterson by taking an eight-round decision.

Seven subway stop at 46th and Bliss Streets.

The building was originally an indoor tennis court built in 1926 for the private use of millionaire Jay Gould, and he often rented it out for boxing. When it was sold in 1945, new owners H. Jordan Lee and Manny Heicklen turned it into Sunnyside's entertainment center. They hosted bingo, political rallies (when John F. Kennedy spoke there in 1960, the crowd spilled onto the street), bazaars, dances, and pro wrestling. It was boxing, though, that made the building famous.

"It was a great place for fights," said Gene Moore, a matchmaker at Sunnyside from 1970-73. "It was so compact."

With a capacity for no more than 2,000, Sunnyside was equipped with a small ringside section and bleachers on two sides of the ring. Alcohol, served from the bar attached to the front of the building and at beer stands inside, helped shape the mood of the crowds, which often exceeded 2,000. Bottle-tossing was a rare, but frightening, occurrence.

Both outside (above) and inside (right), Philadelphia's enduring Blue Horizon is the quintessential boxing club.

In one of the more bizarre evenings at Sunnyside, the wife of a local fighter charged into the ring after her husband was knocked out. She began hitting his opponent with an umbrella, which inspired the wife of the winner to climb in and join the fray.

Among the more serious sluggers to swap punches at Sunnyside were Jimmy McLarnin, Tony Canzoneri, and Al Singer, who fought during Sunnyside's pre-World War II prime. When the arena made its comeback under Cohen, it helped launch the pro careers of world champions Vito Antuofermo and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad.

"It reminded me of one of those old-time arenas you saw in the movies," said Antuofermo, who turned pro at Sunnyside in 1971. "It was always smoky when you fought. It was a real boxing atmosphere."

The building enjoyed much success through the '60s and closed briefly in 1973. Promoters Vic Manni and Nick Anest reopened the club in 1975 and had moderate success. Gerry Cooney turned pro there in February 1977, and one month later 1,500 people showed up to watch a nondescript 10-rounder while the immensely popular Golden Gloves finals were being held at Madison Square Garden. But it was also the start of an era during which managers sought to protect their fighters/investments, and a series of mismatches were made. When tickets jumped from $7 to $10 for non-competitive fights, fans began to stay away.

"We tried to build with local fighters," said Manni, "but there wasn't the same interest. Boxing lost money. Then the building began to deteriorate. But the city should have supported the place. It was a landmark."

To help pay the $8,000-per-month rent, Manni and Anest ran gambling nights in conjunction with a local synagogue. A police investigation ensued, and the end of boxing at Sunnyside came on June 24, 1977, when New Jersey's Ramon Ranquello outpointed Missouri's Bob Smith over eight rounds. Without the draw of a local fighter, less

than 400 people witnessed the final main event. The landmark on 44-16 Queens Boulevard was demolished in December 1977, and a Wendy's restaurant now occupies the plot of land that once figured so prominently in the boxing world.

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The only city in the country that could rival New York as a major boxing town was Philadelphia. In fact, if you hail from Philly there really is no rivalry at all. It's The City of Brotherly Love by unanimous decision.

From the early-'20s through boxing's Golden Age, Philadelphia may have had just as many small fight clubs as New York. The formula for success was the same: Promoters matched neighborhood pugs in competitive fights, accentuating ethnic rivalries. Among the early fistic establishments thriving in Philly were the Adelphi, the Olympia, the Broadway, and the Cambria. By the '50s, the Wagner Ballroom, the Plaza, and the Alhambra were also operating in the black.

The Arena, established in the early-'20s, was Philadelphia's main fight venue for nearly half a century. It seated close to 8,000, and although it ran shows on a weekly basis, the house was too big to be considered a club. Localite Harold Johnson twice defended the world light heavyweight title there, and Joe Frazier stopped Doug Jones there in 1967. Situated at 45th and Market Streets, The Arena began to lose popularity in the early-'70s and was rented to independent promoters from 1970-72. When Russell Peltz became boxing director at the refurbished Spectrum in December 1972, the fights at The Arena faded into obscurity. There were less than a dozen shows from 1972 until it burned down in 1980.

"Philly used to be a good fight town," said 78-year-old Willie O'Neill, who began attending shows as a six-year-old and later managed WBA bantamweight champion Jeff Chandler. "We had some wars in those days. Every week these places were packed. There were guys from South Philly fighting guys from North Philly and they drew well all the time. You could see boxing almost every night. Monday at the Arena, Wednesday at the Olympia, Thursday at the Broadway, and Friday at the Cambria."

The Cambria, affectionately known as "The Bucket Of Blood," was a small venue that seated less than 1,000 fans. It was located in the gritty Kensington section of Northeast Philly. "Main events there weren't always world-class main events," said Peltz. "It was a real blue-collar type of place."

Lightweight contender Eddie Cool was a major draw at The Cambria in the early-'30s, and future 135-pound champion Bob Montgomery plied his craft there in the '40s. Such prominent Philly contenders as George Benton and Stanley "Kitten" Hayward were also developed there, but nothing could prevent the Bucket of Blood from running its course the way all other small venues did.

The last pro card at the Cambria came on September 10, 1962, with middleweight Marty Feldman climbing off the canvas to twice drop Baby Bratton and secure a unanimous decision. On the undercard, future Philadelphia legend Bennie Briscoe made his pro debut with a four-round decision over Sam Samuels.

"It was a pleasure to fight there," said Feldman, who went on to manage some of Philly's top sluggers. "Everyone was accustomed to boxing. These were hardened boxing fans. That last night, it was so hot in there that people in the audience were passing out."

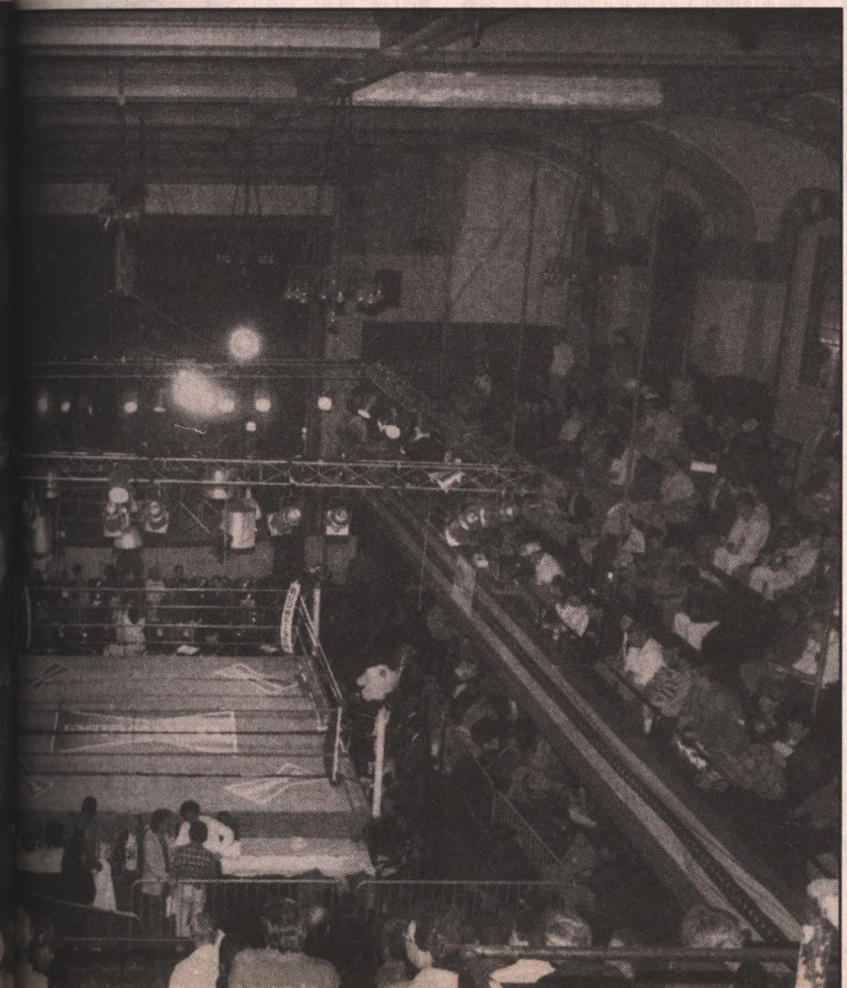
The lone remaining link in both spirit and structure to the Cambria and its smallish smoke-filled brethren is the Blue Horizon. It's the last of boxing's great small fight clubs.

The Blue has all the trappings of a traditional fight club: a balcony with wooden seats, a cramped dressing room complete with damaged walls suggesting they were perhaps mistaken for punching bags, and, although smoking is prohibited, a smoky atmosphere. (A security guard lit up five feet from the ring at a recent show.)

Boxing at the Blue takes place on the second floor of a building that was built in 1864 and was initially a Frat House for Temple University. It is so compact that fighters often have a hard time navigating a path to the ring. Large entourages aren't advised. The fans are very vocal and biased, rooting for a Philly fighter over all outsiders. The electricity is most intense, however, when a pair of Philly fighters are matched.

The seats in the balcony are first-come, first-serve. They are clearly the best in the house. A crowd forms in the building's lobby early in the night as fans await to make a sprint to the balcony. On two sides of the ring the balcony descends to about eight feet from the top rope. Fans situated near a corner can literally listen to a trainer's instructions.

In 1960, the building was purchased by Jimmy Toppi Jr., whose father promoted fights in the late-'20s. A year later, promoters Marty Kramer and Herman Taylor began renting the building for boxing. Kramer's shows were subsidized by Madison Square Garden, and Taylor put on network TV fights that showcased some of Philly's top fighters. By 1964, when the Garden's Friday Night Fights series ran its



course, so did boxing at the Blue.

Peltz, then a 22-year-old promoter, ran his first Blue Horizon card in 1969. In the main event, Briscoe flattened Tito Marshall in one round. Since then, three generations of great Philly warriors have graduated to all levels of the Sweet Science after studying at the Blue. Bobby "Boogaloo" Watts, Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, Willie "The Worm" Monroe, Chandler, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Frank "The Animal" Fletcher, Robert "Bam Bam" Hines, and Bernard Hopkins have all taken part in this informal initiation.

"This is an all-time great small arena," said Monroe, a former middleweight contender who turned pro at the Blue in 1969 and now referees bouts there. "It's always been a dingy, dark place to fight in. I loved it. It's a great place for a young fighter. This was where you got your start in Philly. I have a lot of good memories. A lot of great fights."

The Blue Horizon and Peltz (with financial help from the USA Network) are still in the business of putting on great fights. That is the main reason why it is the only small fight club still in business. Anywhere.

"We're successful because we make competitive fights," said Peltz. "These fans are the most knowledgeable fight fans in the country. You can't fool them. Philly is still a leading fight center."

***

Theoretically, Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium didn't qualify as a small fight club arena. It seated close to 10,000 and hosted many world title fights. But in a spiritual realm, it was as rowdy and unsterile as St. Nick's or the Blue Horizon. The flavor of the evening was the same as any fight club in the East, except the Olympic had a dash of jalapeno in it.

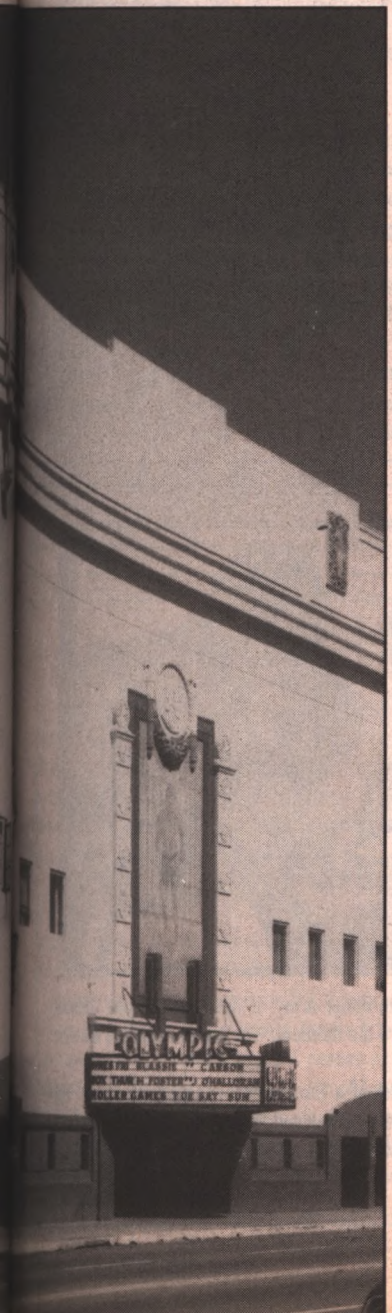
Erected in 1925, the Olympic is said to have been the first arena built solely for the use of boxing, and heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey turned over the first shovel of dirt at the ground-breaking ceremony. It was the venue for boxing, wrestling, and powerlifting at the 1932 Olympic Games, but for nearly seven decades it provided downtown Los Angeles with weekly boxing shows, appealing primarily to the city's large Mexican population.

"In its prime, the Olympic was the best place to watch a fight," said Rafael Mendoza, a Mexico-based booking agent and manager. "There's no doubt about it. Any seat in the

Olympic was a perfect seat."

The seats at the Olympic ascended gradually from the first row to the last, much like the seating in a movie theater. There was no real ringside section, and if you sat in the eighth row, you were at ring level. The fighters emerged out of a tunnel that ended about 10 feet from the ring, eliminating long and grandiose entrances. It was out of the tunnel and into the ring. Once the fighter emerged, the crowd exploded with applause. And as Mendoza pointed out, the tunnels were great when the riots occurred because the fighters could escape unscathed.

This exterior shot makes the Olympic Auditorium seem so peaceful (below). On fight nights (right), however, world-class boxers like Danny Lopez, seen kayoing Raul Cruz in 1975, drove the fans into a frenzy.



"The atmosphere at the Olympic was as good as you can get," said John Beyrooty, who covered boxing for the Los Angeles *Herald-Examiner* and is now the director of publicity for boxing at the Great Western Forum. "The fans were knowledgeable about the fighters and they cared about them."

It is the crowd that makes the arena, and the Olympic faithful had its own rules of etiquette. Fans acknowledged good fights by hurling coins into the ring and bad ones by tossing cups filled with urine. The late, great ring announcer Jimmy Lennon, a staple at the Olympic, had scars on his head from flying bottles and coins. The fans in the balcony were also known to protest unpopular decisions by lighting fires or ripping out rows of chairs.

The core of the Olympic's success was its ability to showcase Mexican fighters. Mendoza was responsible for introducing the likes of Chango Carmona, Gato Gonzalez, Alfonso Zamora, and Pipino Cuevas. Even Mexican-Americans like Danny "Little Red" Lopez and Bobby Chacon were big attractions. Promoter Cal Eaton, who ran boxing there from 1955 to 1965, had two public relations men, Luis Magana, who handled the Spanish-speaking media, and Don Fraser, who worked with the American press. Every Thursday night, *boxeo* from the Olympic was televised nationally on Spanish-language stations.

"It was a sensational atmosphere," said Mendoza. "The crowds were mostly blacks, Mexicans, and Filipinos. It was a hot audience. There were a lot of fights and a lot of betting. That's how you can tell when a club is hot, when they bet on the fights. Not big bets, but one guy would say, 'I like the guy in the red trunks,' and his friend would say, 'Okay, I got the other guy.' They would bet for small change or for beer. When they do that, you know the arena has flavor."

The Olympic may have been small compared to a place like Madison Square Garden, but it hosted the biggest names in boxing. Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Ken Norton, Emile Griffith, Ruben Olivares, Lopez, Carlos Palomino, and Julio Cesar Chavez all fought there at one time or another.

Rumors persist that the arena, boarded up since 1987, will open again. Its current owner, Jack Needleman, has done some remodeling inside but has not been able to secure a promoter willing to stage fights in Los Angeles' turbulent downtown section. Dan Goossen initially showed interest but didn't pursue it. As we went to press, Needleman was prepared to sell the building to his sons, who have been negotiating with Bob Arum. With Michael Carbajal and Oscar De La Hoya in his promotional stable, Arum could make an immediate impact. According to Arum's West Coast matchmaker, Bruce Trampler, the promoter has targeted February 5 as a reopening date and hopes to match Los Angeles' De La Hoya against WBA junior lightweight king and fellow L.A. resident Genaro Hernandez.

"This is something that I thought would never happen," said Trampler. "I sat there for many nights, for many years. It'll be like going back to the old Yankee Stadium with the facade and the monuments. I'm thrilled. A lot of ghosts are gonna come out of the woodwork."

And when they do, here's hoping they invite the ghosts of St. Nick's, Sunnyside Garden, the Bucket of Blood, the House of Upsets ... ■

Next month: Why the fight clubs failed

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Time Capsules

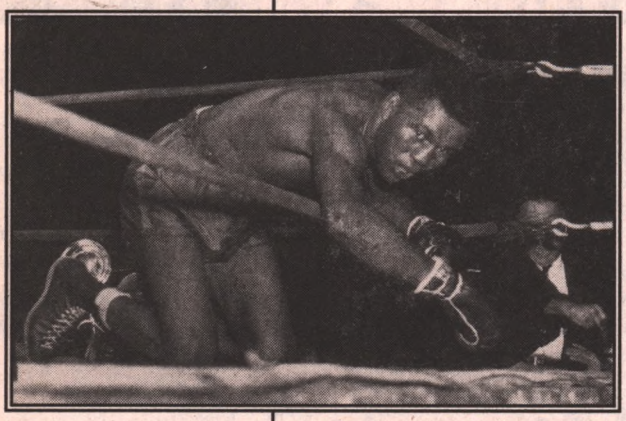
By Stanley Weston

GLASSY-EYED BOBCAT

(August 4, 1947)

Bob Montgomery's big brown eyes are wide open, but they can't focus. He can't see. He isn't sure where he is or what he's supposed to be doing—or where the guy is who left him quivering helplessly over the ropes during one of 1947's most important prize fights.

The guy who devastated "Bobcat Bob," virtually ending his brilliant career, was "Trenton (New Jersey) Terror" Ike Williams. And what made this bout so important was that it finally ended the long, bitter feud between the state of New York and the powerful National Boxing Association. For the first time since Sammy Angott relinquished the title five years before, boxing had an undisputed lightweight champion of the world. Williams' smashing victory greatly increased the prestige of the NBA, which had recognized Ike as champion, and was a bitter blow to New York and its titleholder, Montgomery.



The fight's potential drawing power was so promising that promoters rented Philadelphia's cavernous Municipal Stadium (capacity 125,000), where Gene Tunney had won the heavyweight crown from Jack Dempsey 21 years before. But a threat of rain held the turnout to a disappointing 30,500 and a gate of $178,301.

Boxing out of a crouch, Montgomery kept out of harm's way for five rounds as Williams' blows either landed on Bob's shoulders or bounced harmlessly off his head. Then, in the sixth round, it happened: Ike's right exploded on the Bobcat's chin with such force that it spun him around and dropped him over the lower rope (see photo). Referee Charley Daggert's count reached nine as Montgomery staggered to his feet, only to run into an avalanche of bombs that sent him crashing to the canvas, where he was counted out at 2:37 of the round.

TO DECIDE SUGAR RAY'S SUCCESSOR

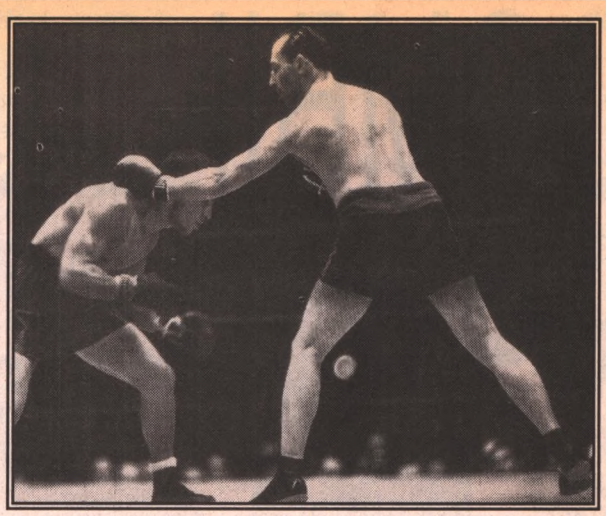
(May 18, 1951)

After Sugar Ray Robinson relinquished his world welterweight crown to compete as a middleweight, the two finest 147-pounders in the business battled it out at Madison Square Garden to determine a successor. Cuba's dynamic, bolo-punching Kid Gavilan (right) weighed in at a rock-hard 145¼ to master boxer Johnny Bratton's 147. Because Bratton had been victorious but unimpressive against Charley Fusari two months earlier, Gavilan was tabbed a 2-1 favorite.

Cheered on by a solid rooting mob of Cuban-Americans and three charter flight loads fresh up from Havana, the Kid went wild at the opening bell. By actual count he landed an avalanche of 36 consecutive shots on his overwhelmed opponent without a single return. That opening round set the pattern of the entire 15 rounds. Bratton was never in contention, and he tried to slip out of the ring even before the one-sided decision was announced. Trying to stay alive when what seemed like an entire army of deliriously happy Cubans stormed the ring was an even far greater challenge facing Kid Gavilan. Adding to the drama and joy of the moment: Gavilan had become the first Cuban world champion since the island's idol of idols, Kid Chocolate.

Meanwhile, upon learning the world had a new welterweight king, Ray Robinson, in the midst of a European tour, appeared angry. He spouted off at a London press conference, "I never gave up my welterweight title. I'm still champion." Commented Peter Wilson, dean of British boxing scribes, "It seems to me that Sugar Ray is hoping Kid Gavilan will grow into a middleweight and that businessman Robinson is sewing the seeds for a big fight down the road."

KEEP 'EM OFF-BALANCE

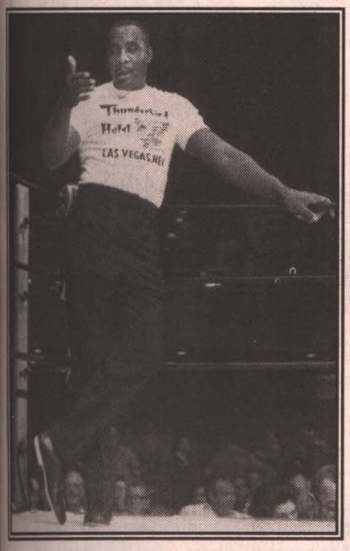


(August 11, 1932)

Benny Leonard was boxing's Rembrandt, the unequaled Master whose genius was still apparent even in old age. According to legendary trainer Ray Arcel, who not only trained Leonard but worshipped him, one of the key factors to Benny's artistry was his constant strategy of keeping opponents off-balance. Very early in his fabled career Leonard discovered that strength played very little part in accomplishing that objective. Rather, it was a matter of timing; tapping—not punching—a foe in exactly the right place, at precisely the right instant, could frustrate him and throw him off-kilter. But to develop this technique into a true art form, as Leonard did, required unique in-born skills which never left him.

Benny was 36 and long past his prime when this picture was taken in the eighth round of his comeback fight with tough Paulie Walker, 10 years his junior. Up on his toes, hair slicked back, Leonard stops Walker's rush by tapping his shoulder with an open glove and throwing him off-balance, thus neutralizing Paulie's intended attack.

Note that Leonard is not wearing socks. Could that have inspired Leonard-idolizing former heavyweight champion and noted boxing historian Mike Tyson to follow in Benny's unsocked footsteps?



SPECIAL ATTRACTION

(December 8, 1962)

The welterweight title fight between defending champion Emile Griffith and Jorge Fernandez, scheduled for Las Vegas' Thunderbird Hotel and Casino, was in dire need of hype; something, *anything*, to stimulate public interest. "How about getting Sonny Liston to referee?" suggested one press agent. The idea had merit. After all, Liston was the hottest thing to hit boxing since Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano. Everybody was still talking about his startling first-round knockout of Floyd Patterson. The thinking was that people would gladly pay just to get a look at the huge, awesome Liston in the flesh. But there was one problem: The Nevada authorities refused to approve Sonny to referee an important match. "He doesn't have the experience; it's too risky," was the official response.

What about the next best thing? Did Liston have enough experience to referee a not-so-important bout? Say a preliminary match? The official reply was quick in coming: "No problem."

When heavyweight king Charles "Sonny" Liston gracefully slipped his massive frame through the ropes to referee a six-round match, he got the most stirring ovation of the evening. Liston was obviously surprised by the crowd's reaction, and his scowl turned into a slight grin, then into a warm smile few believed possible. Sonny waved to the fans upstairs and joked with some of the familiar faces at ringside.

Did he handle the job well? Did he look like he knew what he was doing? That was debatable. But one thing was for sure: When Sonny Liston ordered the fighters to break, he got no argument.

ANYTHING FOR YOU, JOE

(August 26, 1956)

When word leaked to the boxing community that Joe Louis was scheduled to appear on the major TV quiz show, *High Finance*, to hopefully relieve himself of some of the mountain of the past due income tax he owed, the response was overwhelming. But the producers couldn't possibly accommodate the army of friends and former sparring partners and opponents who volunteered to show their support for Joe on camera.

It was decided that Jimmy Braddock (right), the man from whom Louis won the heavyweight title in 1937, and Rocky Marciano (second from left), who ended Joe's career in 1951, would represent not only boxing folks, but the whole world in this worthy and noble cause.

Nobody was rooting harder for Joe to win a bundle than the show's genial, enormously popular host, Dennis James (standing between Braddock and Marciano). Dennis started his TV career as both a wrestling and boxing commentator in the late-'40s and was one of Louis' most devoted fans. After Joe danced through a series of tailor-made questions to win about $10,000, James pumped the old champ's hand warmly and sighed, "I wish it could be more, Joe."

Everybody in television land felt the same way. ■

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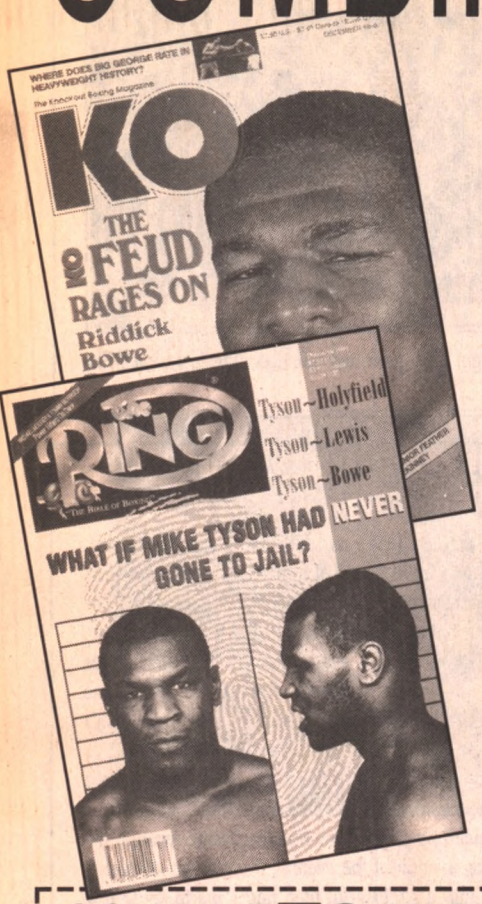

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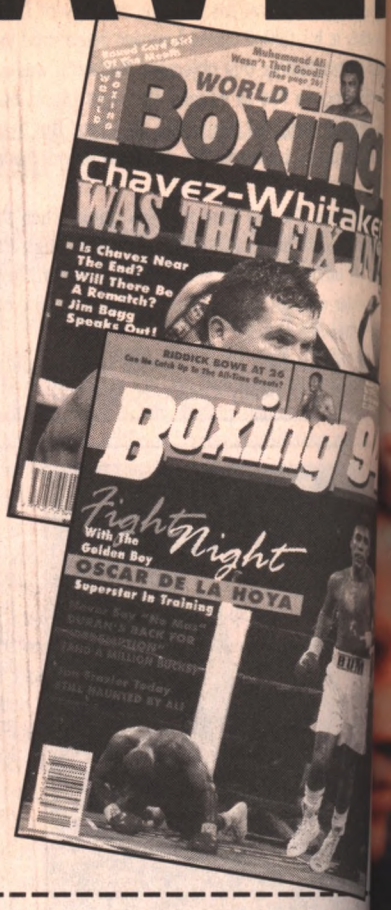

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Skill, Power, And A Whole Lotta Character

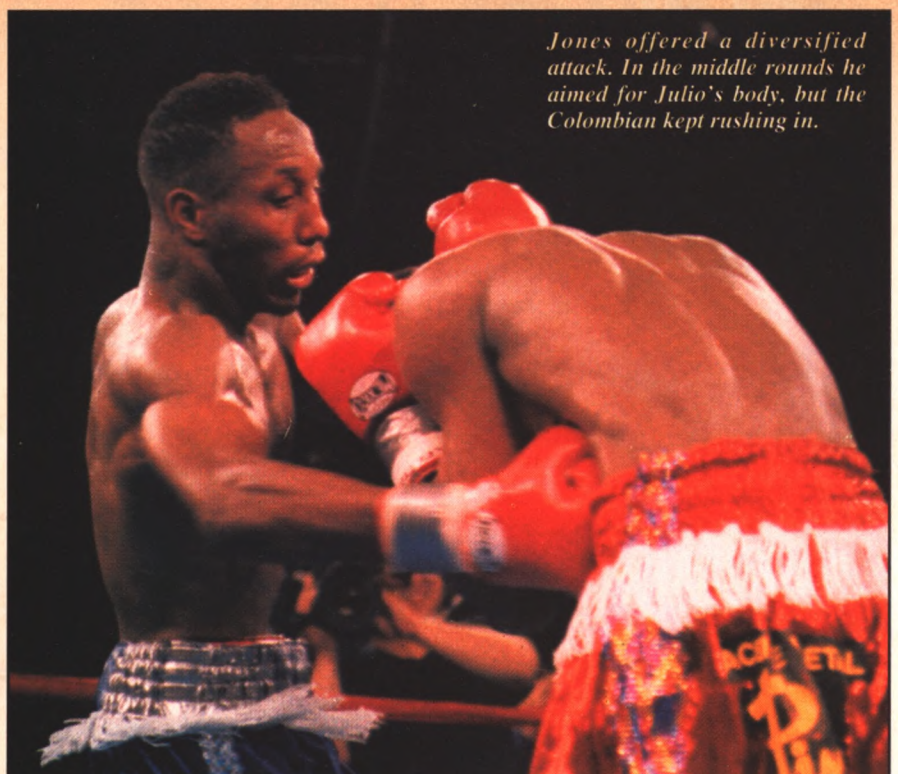
By Steve Farhood

It was the fifth round of a fantastic fight, and "Poison" Junior Jones was looking like Mark Breland for all the wrong reasons: His eyes were glazed, his arms were flailing, his pencil-thin legs were too weak to carry him. Colombia's Jorge Eliecer Julio, the WBA bantamweight champion, had arrived in Atlantic City a well-kept secret. Suddenly, Jones knew more than he had hoped would be necessary. Julio had just countered with the kind of crisp, quick hook only world-class fighters can perfectly time, leaving the challenger flat for the first time in his life. That includes 189 amateur and pro bouts, and countless skirmishes with big sister and kayo artist Renee during his Wonder Bread years.

Jones lifted himself to his feet and looked to his trainer, as he had undoubtedly looked to his mother when Renee would connect with a particularly devastating combination. A veteran of 40 years of ring wars, Joey Fariello feigned calmness. What answers could he possibly pro-

Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

JUNIOR JONES WINS THE WBA BANTAMWEIGHT TITLE!



Jones offered a diversified attack. In the middle rounds he aimed for Julio's body, but the Colombian kept rushing in.

defense on foreign soil (Jones, the ma
ry contender, earned $25,000), launc
frenzied attack. Jones slipped some
punches but never clinched, and for
seemed like forever, failed to punch
Julio's exorbitant purse, forked ov
Jones' promoter, Garden State Boxin
been money well-spent; in a Colo
ring, the fight might have been stopp

When the fog lifted, Jones boldly
to return fire—hooks, body shots,
uppercuts—with such fervor that one
judges scored the round for Julio by
10-9. The challenger had regained at
smidgen of confidence, while acro
ring Julio sat with eyes swollen
bruised, and opportunity passed.

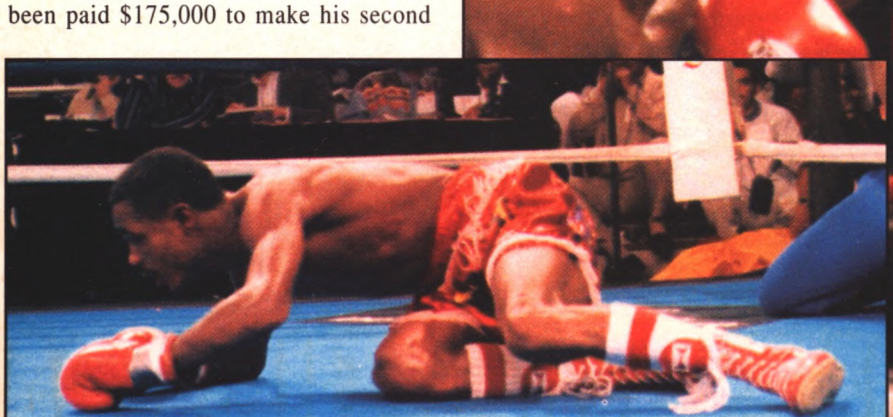
Who could have imagined that at
relatively early point in his career,
one of the most physically gifted pro
of the '90s, would have to rely on
bles like heart, courage, and ma
Fariello for one, who, when the gym
Gleason's were marveling over
freakish reach, Mexican-like body

vide for his fighter? In a moment that would begin to define Jones' career, he was alone. It couldn't be any other way.

Before the start of the bout, a cluster of journalists from Colombia was asked to rate Julio among the nation's all-time best. The 24-year-old champion didn't make the top five. "He's just a rookie," explained Eugenio Baena Calvo, a sports broadcaster. But a kayo of the highly touted and heavily favored Jones would surely move Julio into the company of legends like Antonio Cervantes, Rodrigo Valdes, and Happy Lora.

Sensing his moment, Julio, who had been paid $175,000 to make his second

It was a see-saw fight; Julio regained control in the seventh, eighth, and ninth, but suffered critical knockdowns in the 11th and 12th (below).



THE BEST BANTIE IN BOXING

One of 1993's best fights had ended only minutes before, and WBA bantamweight champion Junior Jones was already being questioned about one of the best fights of 1994, a unification vs. IBF titlist Orlando Canizales. Even before Jones had dethroned Jorge Eliecer Julio, rumors were spreading about a showdown with the long-reigning Canizales in February. But don't be surprised if the fight never happens.

Junior Jones

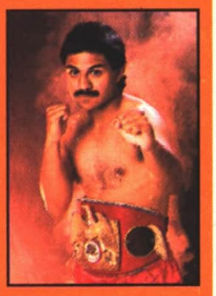
Said promoter Dan Duva after the thrilling Jones-Julio duel, "I hope Seth Abraham and all the geniuses at HBO were watching."

Duva knows only Abraham has the bankroll to make Jones-Canizales. But HBO's interest is only one factor. The first problem is the fighters and their handlers. While Gary Gittlesohn, Jones' manager, says, "I'd do it in a minute," the fighter was far less enthusiastic.

"My next fight? No," said Jones. "I'd fight him tomorrow, but when I was number one, why didn't he fight me? I'll make a couple of defenses first, make some money." He meant *easy* money.

Canizales' manager offered a different perspective.

"I have a lotta respect for Jones and Joey [Fariello]," said Bob Spagnola, "but it kills me that Canizales is champ for five years and suddenly someone's gonna discover the bantamweight division because some guy comes along from Brooklyn. It makes me sick. Someone's gonna give us the *honor* of being an opponent for Junior Jones?



Orlando Canizales

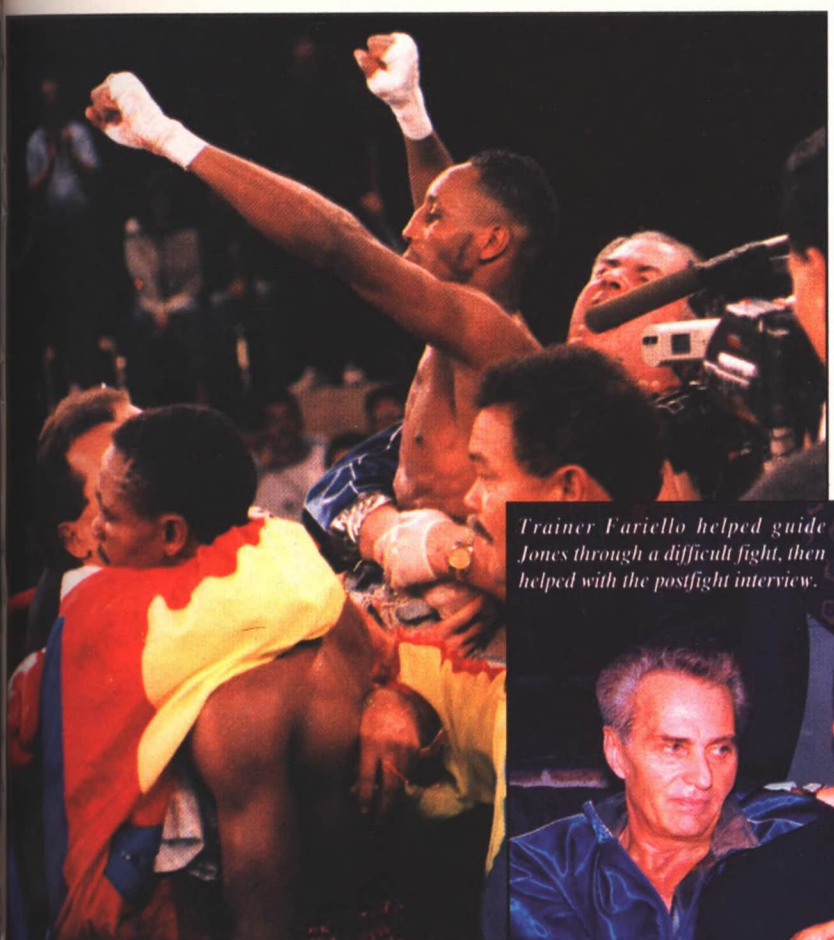
"We'd be interested in the fight. Hell, Orlando's never been paid $200,000 before. We've been steady at about a buck and a quarter [$125,000]. But I won't be showing up as an opponent for HBO."

The biggest potential roadblock remains Abraham. While he's interested in Jones-Canizales, ("Jones has marquee potential"), he says he'd have to pair the unification battle with a more marketable attraction.

"Regrettably, it would be a very low-rated fight," he said. "It's a terrific fight, but oddly enough it needs something with it to make people watch during prime time. Tommy Morrison-Michael Bentt is not a fight the world is waiting for, but we'll do 20 percent of our 19 million homes. Jones-Canizales would do eight or nine percent, less than half. Plus, we have commitments to Bowe, Lewis, Morrison, Jones, Toney, and De La Hoya. We have a lot of jumbo jets to land in the next 18 months."

Which means that as usual, there won't be a lot of air time for smaller models like Jones and Canizales.

—SF

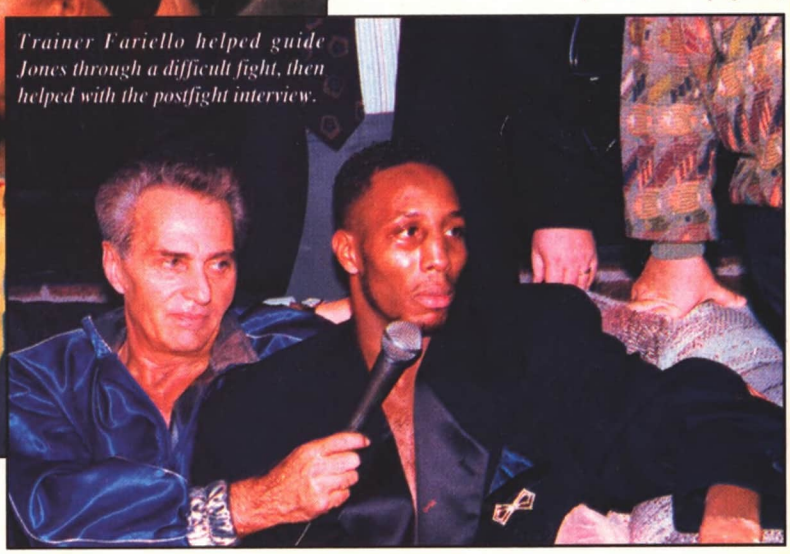


As Jones celebrated, Julio was consoled. The efforts of both champion and challenger were extraordinary, and Jones-Julio will receive consideration for fight of the year.

and crackling crosses, was developing his fighter's head. He knew there'd be a moment like round five against Julio, and he wanted to make sure Jones would not only learn from it, but fight through it.

"Desire he always had, but he had to develop the mental toughness that goes along with being a champion," Fariello said at the weigh-in. "Junior was a bit of a baby in the beginning, a two- three-round fighter. He needed to learn to sustain what he did for 10, 12 rounds. I'd talk to him every day in the gym. When he did good it was never enough. When he did bad, we tried to

(Continued on page 55)



Trainer Fariello helped guide Jones through a difficult fight, then helped with the postfight interview.

THE BRITISH ARE COMING!

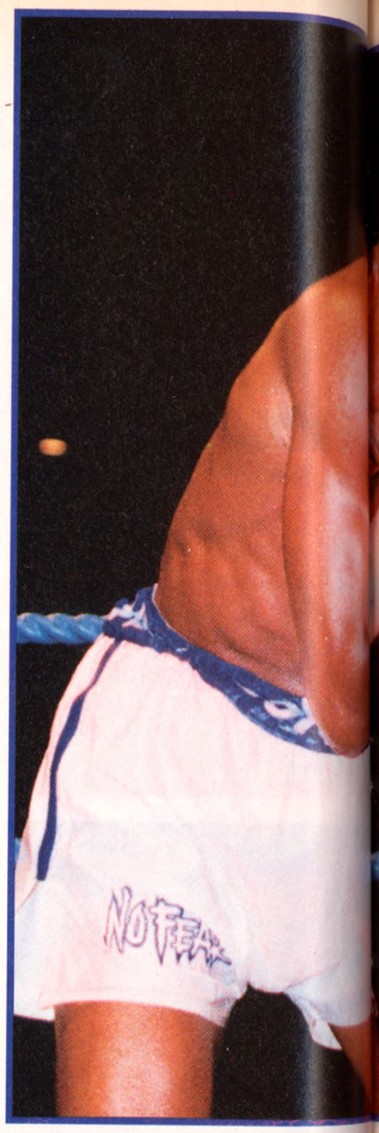
Benn-Eubank II Lewis-Bruno

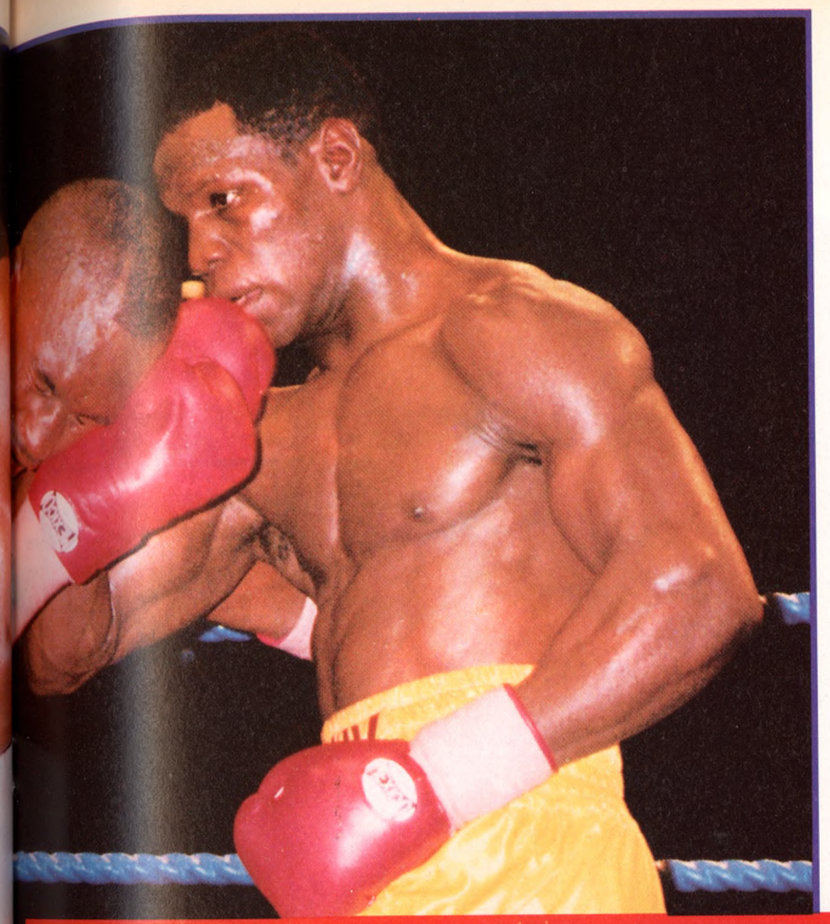
Does America Have Anything To Worry About?

By Brian Doogan

British domestic dust-ups bearing meaningful international implications are about as common as Iraqi goodwill gestures toward the Emir of Kuwait. It's not that Britain hasn't produced a respectable quota of world-class fighters, more so that two who warrant such description have rarely arrived at the same juncture. One need only browse through the list of all-British world title fights to realize how uninspiring some of our tribal feuds have been.

Within the space of one week in October, two British blockbusters were staged at open-air venues that, through varying circumstances, contrived not only to captivate the entire nation, but to attract considerable worldwide attention. On the first day of the month Lennox Lewis made his second defense of the WBC heavyweight title against part-time pantomime star, sometimes boxer, and full-time nice guy Frank Bruno at Cardiff Arms Park, the atmospheric home of Welsh rugby. Eight days later, super middleweights Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank renewed the most bitter rivalry in British boxing when they clashed at Manchester's Old Trafford stadium, the sacred ground of world-famous soccer club Manchester United. At stake were Benn's WBC championship and Eubank's lesser-regarded WBO laurels, as well as further progression in the super middleweight unification series.





As it happened, both fights proved unsatisfactorily inconclusive, Lewis-Bruno yielding a depleted victor and Benn-Eubank producing no winner at all. The repercussions extended well beyond the perimeters of the four principles involved, affecting some of the top men in the business. In fact, the two fights were pivotal pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that currently dominates the immediate future of the fight game.

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

The meeting of Lewis and Riddick Bowe is the sole contest of any real consequence at heavyweight. Both lay claim to the world championship. Lewis' position is regarded by most as slightly spurious, but he justifies his status by emphasizing that Bowe initially refused to honor a contractual agreement in favor of the effortless option, a voluntary defense against a mixed-up and dredged-up Michael Dokes. The next victim, Jesse Ferguson, was almost as demanding as the sparring partners Bowe had employed in preparation for the bout.

Having been retrospectively designated WBC champion on the persuasive basis of his two-round annihilation of Razor Ruddock, Lewis embarked on a potentially threatening trip to Las Vegas to meet the mandatory challenge of a still

Photos by Marc Y. Morris & Action Images

formidable, though somewhat faded, Tony Tucker. The outcome, though never in any doubt, was hardly the emphatic triumph that had been the object of the exercise. Tucker tumbled twice but retained sufficient resistance to force the issue to points. Press reaction to an unconvincing Lewis performance was predictably brutal, the moral being that honorary titleholders have more to prove than those who win their championships in the ring.

A Bowe-Lewis confrontation effectively ruled itself out for '93 when the rival camps failed to agree on terms. The depth of talent within the division is barely enough to immerse your little finger, so the secondary exercises in which both men are now involved, preceding their inevitable punch-up, are virtually reaching the end of their tether. Bearing in mind the tenuous nature of such predictions, the general presumption is that some time in 1994, the financial rewards will prove sufficiently enticing in order for a deal to be struck. The WBC titlist, like his counterpart, is eager and prepared.

"Like everybody else," Lewis said, "I'm looking forward to the fight with Bowe. There's maybe a couple more hurdles to overcome first, but I'm ready and waiting."

THE SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Don King has drawn a substantial following of detractors over the years. The loquacious promoter with the pylon-powered mop of hair has, however, endeavored to work a few saintly deeds, such as the heavyweight elimination tournament of the mid-'80s that reunified the championship. Whether King was motivated by money or a pervading sense of history is unclear only to the naive, but no one can deny the results.

With his primary meal ticket incarcerated in an Indiana prison, King was induced to reconstruct utilizing the precocious talents contained in the junior middleweight, middleweight, and super middleweight divisions. Under the banner "Unification Means Remuneration," King has attracted an impressive array of participants. The middle and super middle divisions are the hottest in boxing, and both Benn and Eubank are key components of the amalgamation process.

"I just don't like the man," is Benn's constant, disdainful snarl whenever the topic turns to Eubank.

"As a fighter I respect him," he adds, "but outside the ropes, the way he puts himself about, that doesn't sit well with me. His arrogance stinks, and I just don't have any time for that."

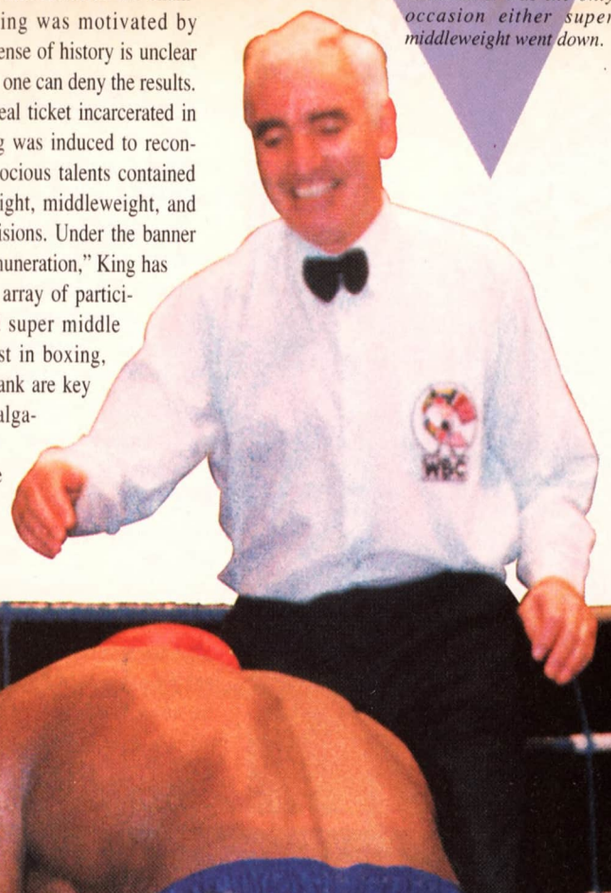
This antagonistic attitude is not reciprocated by Eubank, who is such an enigma that he renders the Rubik's cube uncomplicated. A serious man, he is unquestionably deeply troubled by the career-ending damage he inflicted to countryman Michael Watson, which further added to the vitriolic contempt he holds for the most basic of professions.

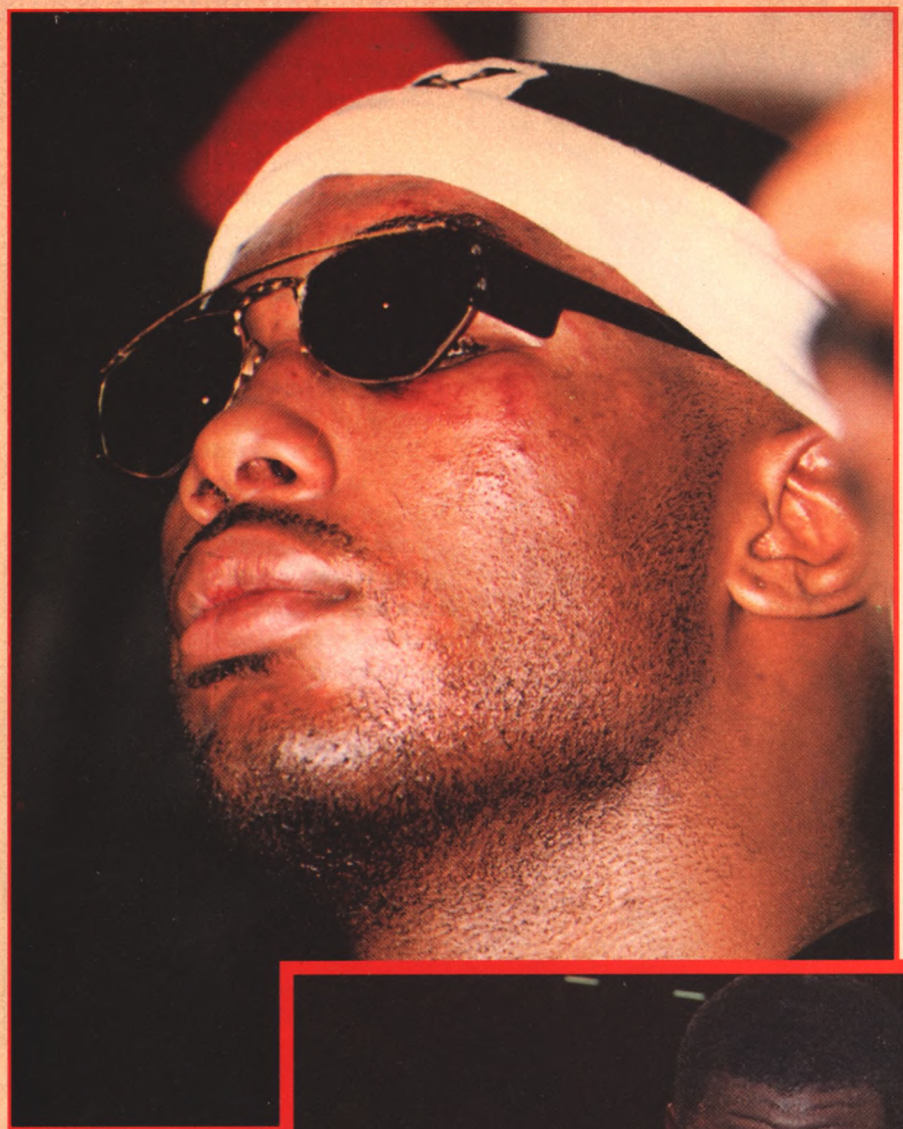
"Boxing is a mug's game, I make no bones about it," he says in lisping, thoughtful tones. "When you see the gentlemen in their designer suits at ringside who stand to make more money out of the business than the fighter, then you realize how much the man in the ring is taken advantage of. I am in this business for the money, and I hope to come out of it with my fami-

Fire and ice: At a prefight press conference in New York City, Benn raged while Eubank turned to stone.

Eubank is a defensive master, but Benn kept busy and some of his power shots landed flush.

Referee Vann found it amusing when the fighters tumbled. It was the only occasion either super middleweight went down.





Bruno left Lewis both cold and bruised. After both of his title defenses, the WBC heavyweight champion has been hammered by the American press.

ly's future secure and my health intact."

His outspoken and strongly held views a interpreted by many as being damaging to t sport, especially by his most critical adversary.

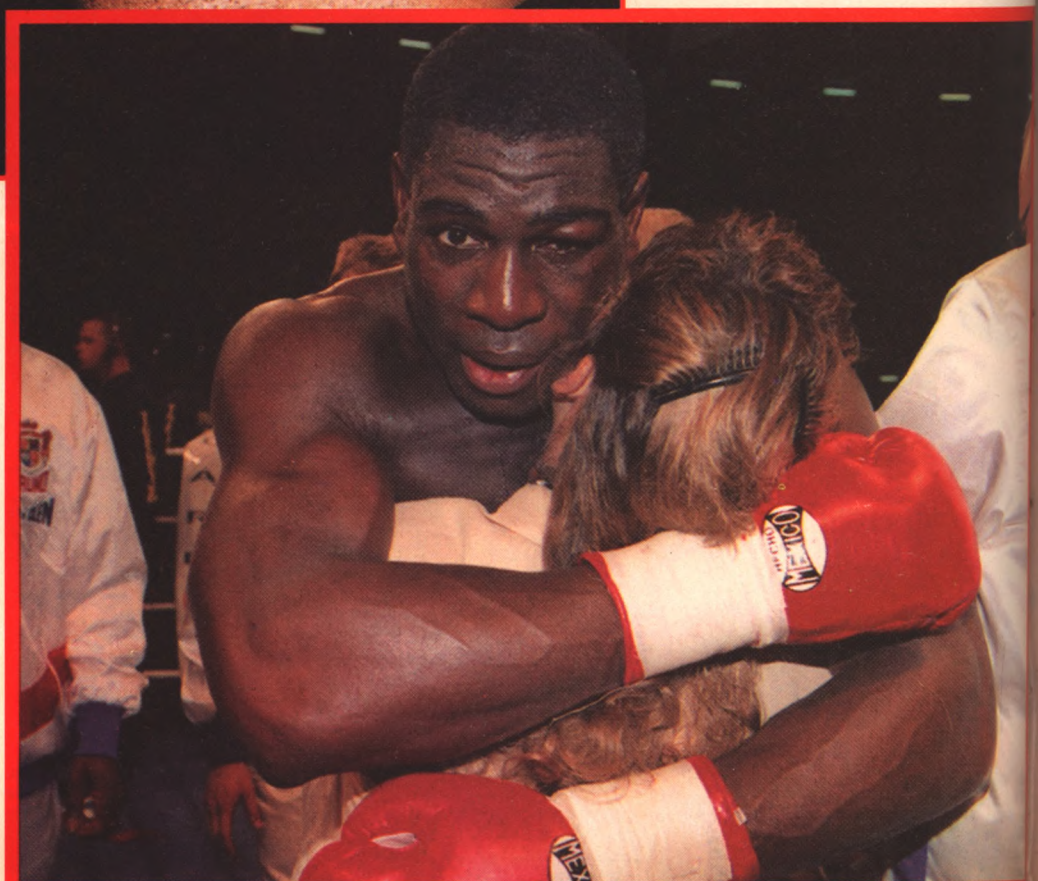
"It's not right that he should bad-mouth bo ing the way he does," said Benn. "It's like bitin off the hand that feeds. He should be thankful fo boxing and show it some respect."

Evidence of any respect between the two wa scant during their electrifying encounter at mi dleweight in November 1990 and has bee scarce since. For three years the prospect rematch brewed, eventually materializing whe Benn's £1-million purse demand was guarantee and Eubank was appeased by assurances £850,000.

THE FIGHTS

On purely aesthetic grounds, the more app tizing collision was Eubank-Benn. Memories the ferocity of their initial fight were sti vivid, and the prospect of a similar dosage wa

(Continued on page



Bruno found comfort in the arms of wife Laura after being suddenly stopped in round seven. The British heavyweight's popularity doesn't figure to suffer.

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Actual questions

Which of the boxers was not a heavyweight champion in the Olympics?

1) George Foreman
2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

He was the only undefeated heavyweight champion

1) Rocky Marciano
2) Joe Louis
3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

Which man is known as "The Fight Doctor"?

1) Don King
2) Angelo Dundee
3) Ferdie Pacheco
4) Howard Cosell

Where does a rabbit-punch hit?

1) the groin
2) the ears
3) the kidneys
4) the back of the head

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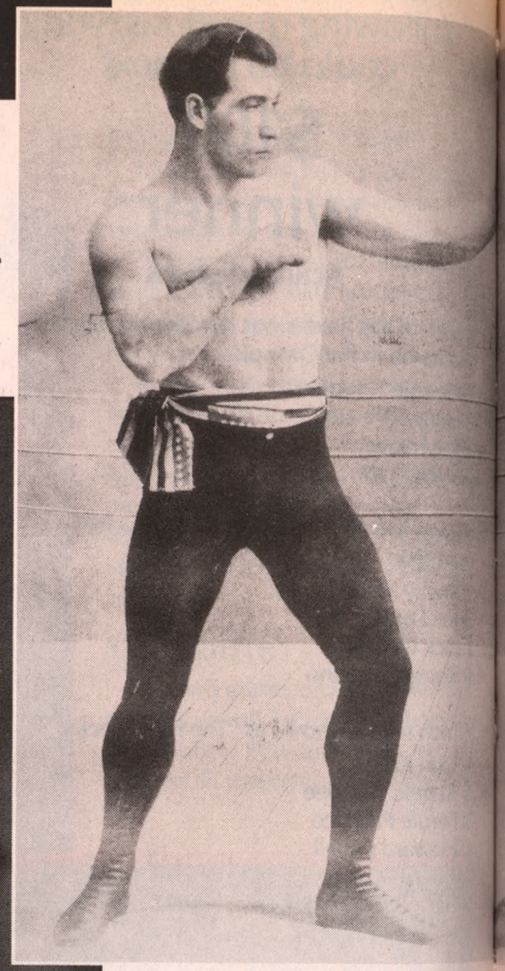
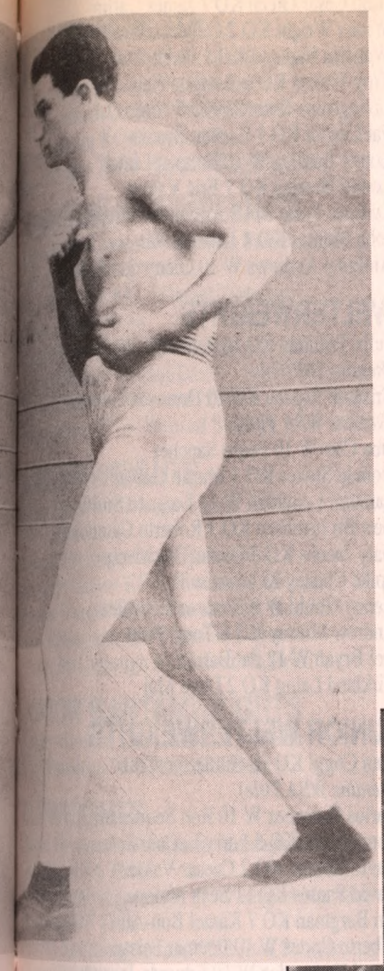
TURN-OF-THE-CENTURY HEAVYWEIGHT

SAILOR TOM SHARKEY

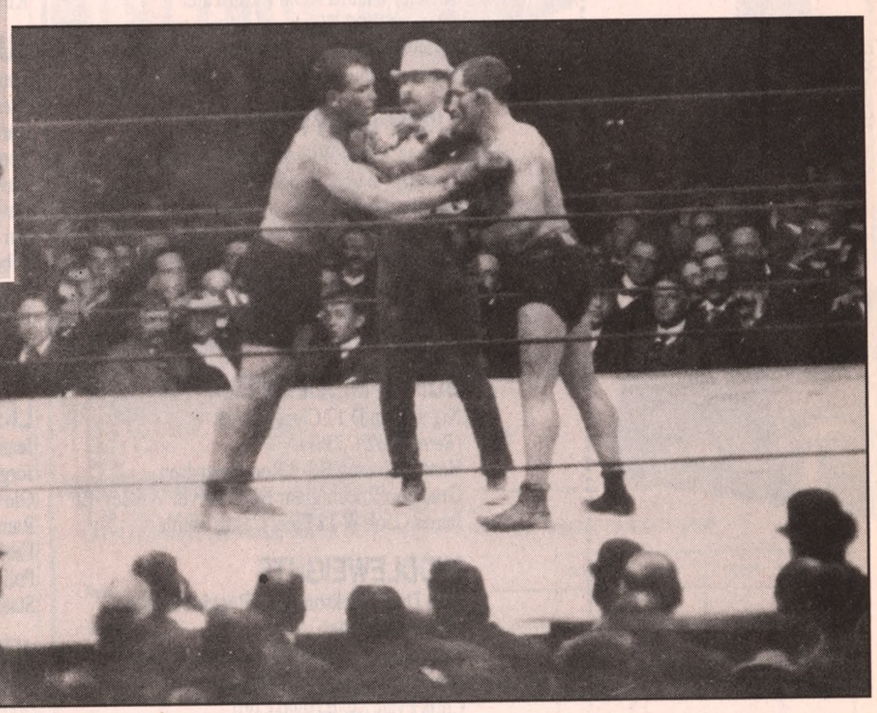




Sailor Tom squares off with former world middleweight champion Kid McCoy. They rumbled in January 1899, with Sharkey winning by 10th-round kayo.

The Jerry Quarry Of His Day

Above: Sharkey (seated) and Jeffries share a ride in a photo taken in the late-'20s. Below: Jim Jeffries (left) and Sharkey engaged in two memorable battles. Pictured is their second bout, fought for the world title in November 1899, and won by defending champion Jeffries via exhausting 25-round decision.



By Patrick Myler

Fearless Tom Sharkey, who stretched no more than 5'8" from toenails to balding pate and weighed in at about 185 pounds, took on the biggest and best fighters at the turn of the century. They included heavyweight kings James J. Corbett, Bob Fitzsimmons, and Jim Jeffries. Sharkey even crossed gloves with a graying, portly John L. Sullivan in a three-round no-decision match in 1896.

But a pairing that seems to have escaped the notice of most ring historians is the occasion when "Sailor Tom" stormed into battle with Jack Johnson. The forgotten meeting took place at the Chicago World's Fair of 1934. Johnson had officially hung up his gloves six years earlier after being kayoed by Bearcat Wright and Bill Hartwell, but he continued picking up a few dollars in exhibition bouts. Sharkey had not fought in 30 years.

Had Johnson and Sharkey clashed at the peak of their powers, the pairing would have had fight fans drooling with anticipation. Sure, Johnson's

(Continued on page 60)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Lennox Lewis KO 7 Frank Bruno
(Retains WBC Title)
Ray Mercer W 10 Mark Wills
Larry Holmes W 10 Jose Ribalta
Frans Botha KO 3 John Morton
Jeremy Williams KO 6 Mark Young
Herbie Hide W 10 Bigfoot Martin
Buster Mathis Jr. W 10 Mike Dixon
Adolpho Washington KO 6 Iran Barkley
Garing Lane W 10 Craig Payne
Craig Petersen KO 1 David Ravu Ravu
Gerrie Coetzee KO 5 West Turner
Boone Pultz KO 1 Kelvin Beatty
Bash Ali KO 4 Charles Udalor
Samson Po'uha KO 1 Jason Waller
David Tua KO 2 Rick Honeycutt

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Anaclet Wamba KO 8 Akim Tafer
(Retains WBC Title)
Jason Waller Tech. Draw 1 Joel Humm
Franco Wanyama W Disq. 10 Johnny Nelson

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Prince Charles Williams KO 2 Booker Word
Leeonzer Barber W 12 Andrea Magi
Egerton Marcus KO 1 Willie Edwards
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 4 Dale Jackson
Dariusz Michalczewski W 12 Mwehu Beya
Ernest Mateen KO 10 Billy Lewis
William Guthrie W 10 Tim Knight
Montell Griffin W 6 Bobby Mack

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Nigel Benn D 12 Chris Eubank
(Retains WBC Title)
Henry Wharton KO 8 Ron Amundsen
Graciano Rocchigiani KO 6 Kevin Whaley-El
James Cook W 12 Fidel Castro Smith

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

John David Jackson W 12 Reggie Johnson
(Wins WBA Title)
John David Jackson KO 3 Charles Lacour
Otis Grant W 12 Willie Monroe
Chris Pyatt KO 6 Hugo Corti
Vinny Pazienza W 10 Robbie Sims
Frederic Seillier W 10 Gino Lelong
Jorge Castro KO 5 Jorge Morello
Joe Lipsey KO 7 Tim Cooper
Lonnie Bradley KO 5 Gary Smith

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 3 Han Kim
(Non-Title Bout)
Vince Phillips W 8 Walid Underwood
Bernard Razzano KO 9 Laurent Boudouani
Julio Cesar Green KO 7 Wayne Powell
Julio Cesar Green KO 1 James Gatlin
Winky Wright KO 2 Gilberto Barreto
Wangila Napunyi KO 1 Pedro Aguirre
Troy Waters KO 6 Wangila Napunyi
Livingstone Bramble KO 5 Allen Osborne
Pat Lawlor KO 1 Carlton Brooks
Lonny Beasley W 10 Emmett Linton
Lonny Beasley KO 7 Eric Valdez
Ludovic Proto KO 2 Armando Gonzalez
John Montes KO 4 James Rivas
Anthony Andrews W 10 Glenwood Brown

WELTERWEIGHTS

Felix Trinidad KO 10 Anthony Stephens
(Retains IBF Title)
Crisanto Espana KO 10 Donovan Boucher
(Retains WBA Title)
Oba Carr W 10 Pedro Sanchez
Donald Stokes KO 1 Martin Galvan
Eamonn Loughran W 12 Lorenzo Smith
Gert Bo Jacobsen KO 3 Roberto Campos
Gary Jacobs KO 5 Daniel Bicchieray
Spike Cheney KO 4 Alex Tui
Kenny Gould W 8 Gustavo Gonzalez
Andrew Murray KO 6 Tony Swift
Del Bryan W 12 Pat Barrett
Kirkland Laing KO 2 Dave Maj

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Juan Coggi KO 10 Guillermo Cruz
(Retains WBA Title)
Carlos Gonzalez W 10 Rod Sequenan
Tony Lopez KO 5 Larry LaCoursiere
David Kamau KO 2 Caesar Valdez
David Santos KO 11 Sean Malone
Jan Bergman KO 7 Kamel Bou-Ali
Alberto Cortes W 10 Ildemar Paisan
Angel Hernandez W 10 Eduardo Jacques
Rodolfo Aguilar KO 3 Victor Mendy
Ray Oliveira W 8 Manny Santiago
Mike Johnson KO 8 Gerardo Velazquez

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Jean-Baptiste Mendy KO 9 Angel Mona
Jorge Paez KO 4 Erik Madrid
Giovanni Parisi W 12 Antonio Rivera
Ramon Marchena KO 10 Mauro Gutierrez
Fabian Tejeda W 10 Eduardo Aguilar
Poli Diaz KO 2 Elviro Reyes
Stanley Longstreet W 10 Andres Sandoval

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Harold Warren
(Retains WBA Title)
John-John Molina KO 8 Bernard Taylor
(Retains IBF Title)
Victor Hugo Paz W Disq. 6 Sergio Martinez
Victor Hugo Paz KO 5 Jose Mario Paz
Jimmi Bredahl W 12 Renato Cornett
Ed Hopson W 10 Jesus Poll
Eugene Speed D 10 Georgie Navarro
Jacobin Yoma KO 8 Areski Bakir
Eun Sik Lee KO 9 Tiger Ari

…ar Lizarraga KO 5 Jose Luis Madrid
…ie Liberatore W 10 Frank Pena
…e Gutierrez KO 4 Agapito Navarro

…EATHERWEIGHTS

…e Robinson W 12 Colin McMillan
…ho Segura W 10 Abe Gomez
…ane Haccoun KO 9 Maurizio Stecca
…i Asakawa KO 3 Jay R. Tarre
…e Rincones W 10 Antonio Ramirez

…UNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

…ady McKinney W 12 Jesus Salud
…ains IBF Title)
…y Patterson KO 7 Daniel Zaragoza
…ains WBC Title)
…ome Ncita KO 3 Eddie Rangel
…e Garcia D 8 Maui Diaz
…hi Kasai W 10 Jerome Coffee
…r Acero W 10 Ishmael Sanders

…ANTAMWEIGHTS

…r Jones W 12 Jorge Eliecer Julio
…s WBA Title)
…do Martinez W 12 Eddie Croft
…ndo Castro KO 8 Guadalupe Beltran
…do Vargas KO 7 Cuauhtemoc Gomez
…a Ramayana KO 7 Samuel Duran
…ne McCullough KO 5 Boulem Belkif

…UNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

…ny Bredahl KO 3 Antonio Morales
…y Penalosa W 10 In Man Chang

…LYWEIGHTS

…id Griman W 12 Alvaro Mercado
…ains WBA Title)
…chit Sithbangprachan KO 9 Miguel Martinez
…ains IBF Title)
…chit Sithbangprachan KO 5 Juan Salazar
…-Title Bout)
…ny Olson KO 2 Alberto Cantu
…s Zamudio W 10 Antonio Ruiz Villasana
…gi Camputaro W 12 Salvatore Fanni
…n Sow Pleonchit W 10 Antonio Perez

…UNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

…z Gamez KO 9 Shiro Yahiro
…s Vacant WBA Title)
…dy Tabanas KO 8 Kenichi Takahashi
…se Camacho KO 8 Julio Cesar Acevedo
…blo Tiznado W 12 Mickey Cantwell
…ier Varguez KO 3 Raul Rios
…k Jin Yang W 10 Manny Melchor
…guel Granados W 10 Roberto Padilla

…TRAWWEIGHTS

…cardo Lopez KO 11 Toto Por Pongsawang
…ains WBC Title)
…anapol Sor Vorapin KO 4 Dominggus Siwalette
…ains IBF Title)
…hian Lukmingkwan W 10 Azadin Anhar
…rlos Murillo KO 3 Carlos Eluaiza
…chitnoi Sithbangprachan KO 3 Melvin Magramo
…David Franco W 12 Roberto Padilla

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FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

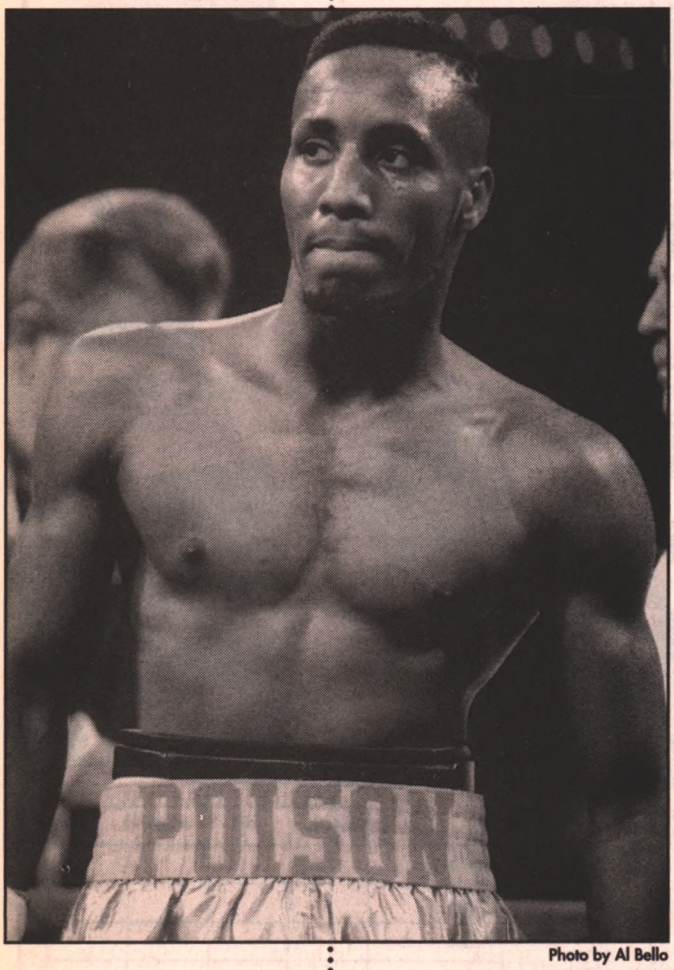


Photo by Al Bello

About a month before Junior Jones' challenge WBA bantamweight champion Jorge Eliecer Julio, top-rated contender was asked by the newsletter *F* what he knew about his opponent.

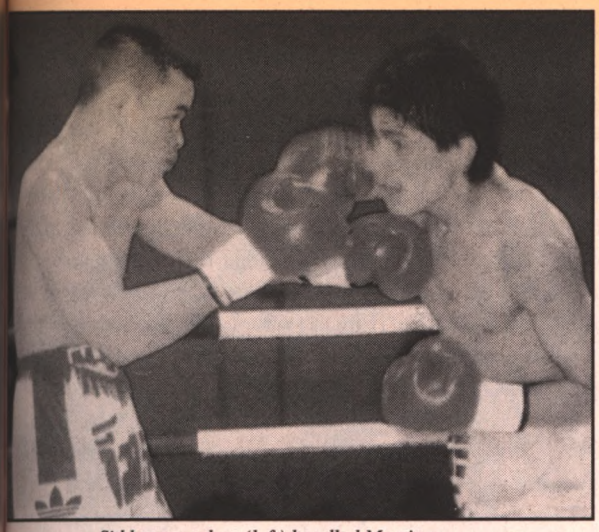
"What I've seen on tape is that he's a runner," Jo said. "He doesn't have the power that his record sho It will take me about five or six rounds to stop him."

That Jones took the title is remarkable because was wrong on all three counts. A runner? Over second half of the bout, Julio tried to gore Jones submission. No power? In round five, a left hook dr Jones from the Atlantic City Boardwalk to the Ga State Parkway, and halfway to Brooklyn. A qu kayo? Julio twice rose from knockdowns, and onl late-rounds rally enabled Jones to win on points.

Afterward, ringsiders were talking about Juli remarkable effort. He was, they decided, a be fighter than had been advertised. They might as w have been speaking of Jones. One title down and knows how many to go.

• • • •

Junior Jones



Sithbangprachan (left) handled Martinez

Phichit Sithbangprachan KO 9 Miguel Martinez

Chaiyaphum, Thailand: Unbeaten Thai Sithbangprachan came off the canvas at Chaiyaphum Provincial Hall and chalked up his third defense of the IBF flyweight crown with an explosive kayo of Mexican challenger and reigning NABF champion Martinez.

It was the toughest fight of the 27-year-old champion's career. Sithbangprachan opened strongly, punching to the body and dropping Martinez with a body blow in round two. But the challenger roared back in the fifth, flooring Sithbangprachan with a left hook. The Mexican followed up in the sixth, and it seemed Sithbangprachan was headed for a stoppage defeat. There would be, however, one more turnaround. The Thai struck again in the eighth, knocking down Martinez, 25-6-1 (21), for the second time. A low blow and clash of heads further staggered Martinez in the ninth, and seconds later Sithbangprachan, 17-0 (4), scored a final knockdown. The bout was halted by referee Bill Males (Australia) without a count.

Nacho Huizar, Martinez' manager, said he'd protest the outcome by showing the IBF a tape of the ninth round. "It proves," he contended, "Phichit threw a shot far below the belt."

At the time of the stoppage, all three judges had Sithbangprachan ahead, with Charlie Lucas (Australia) scoring 77-74, Jacob Limahelu (Indonesia) 76-73, and Sakda Pleumjit (Thailand) 77-72.

Promoter: Somchai Ratanasuban

(10-3-93)

Joe Koizumi

John-John Molina KO 8 Bernard Taylor

San Juan, Puerto Rico: In his fourth and perhaps last defense of the IBF junior lightweight title, Molina, 130, Fajardo, Puerto Rico, hit too hard and too often for feisty 36-year-old number-one contender Taylor, 129½, Knoxville, Tennessee, at the Condado Convention Center.

Taylor, a fast-stepping and eager opponent, lost for the first time in 6½ years. This was his third try for a world title; he fought to a draw with Eusebio Pedroza in 1982 and was stopped in eight rounds by Barry McGuigan in 1985. Both bouts were contested for the WBA featherweight title.

Molina, 33-3 (24), received a scare in the first round when an unintentional butt opened a cut over his left eye. He nonetheless established control with fast hands and furious flurries. Taylor remained competitive and staged a rally in the seventh round, during which he landed his best punches. Molina regained his momentum early in the eighth, landing a right uppercut that stunned the challenger. He followed with a volley to the head, and referee Roberto Ramirez (USA) called a halt at the 1:00 mark.

After seven rounds, Molina led on all three cards. Cesar Ramos (Puerto Rico) and William Kostrub (USA) scored 70-64, and Charles Dwyer (USA) 69-64.

"The right uppercut that [trainer] Ronnie Shields taught me did the trick," said the 28-year-old champion.

It is anticipated Molina will now jump to lightweight. He's aiming for WBC champion Miguel Angel Gonzalez.

Taylor only hinted at retirement, saying he's considering work as a trainer.

(10-9-93)

Mario Rivera Martino

Yung Kyun Park W 12 Tae Shik Chun

Damyang, South Korea: There are bullfighters and bull-fighters, and South Korea's Park is definitely among the latter. Defending the WBA featherweight title for the eighth time, the crude but ever-aggressive champion, 125, outhustled countryman Chun, 125¾, and won by lopsided unanimous decision at Damyang Arena.

Ken Morita (Japan) scored 118-112, Kazumasa Kuwata (Japan) 117-110, and Chalerm Prayadsab (Thailand) 118-110. The referee was Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea).

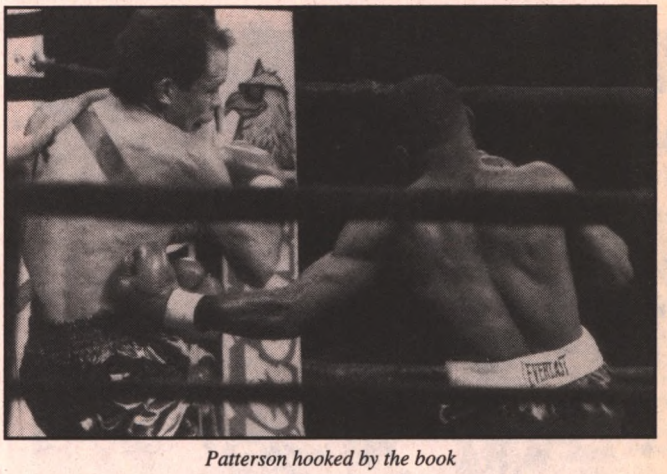
The bout had an intriguing angle; when the fighters were amateurs, Chun was considered the better pro prospect. This was his chance to prove the experts had been correct. The unbeaten contender earned his shot by stopping world-rated Peruvian Eliodora Urbino in May.

Park, 26-1-1 (14), proved too strong from the start, backing Chun, 16-1 (10), to the ropes and raking him with powerpunches. He controlled the bout until the ninth, when Chun connected with a big right hand. The challenger was unable to capitalize, however, and while he took the 12th with a desperate attack, his rally fell far short.

Promoter: Hyundai Promotions

(9-4-93)

Joe Koizumi



Patterson hooked by the book

Tracy Patterson KO 7 Daniel Zaragoza

Poughkeepsie, New York: Coming off the longest layoff of his career due to a partial tear of the rotator cuff in his left shoulder, WBC super bantamweight champion Patterson, 122, Highland, New York, used one flesh-ripping right cross to stop former three-time world champion Zaragoza, 122, Mexico City, at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center.

Patterson risked the title for the third time. His first defense was a 12-round draw against Zaragoza in December 1992. Hence, this bout was titled "Unfinished Business."

The 35-year-old Zaragoza had embarrassed the experts countless times with unexpected title fight victories. Nonetheless, Patterson's camp viewed him as a fairly safe opponent, at least partially because the featherfisted southpaw is known to have trouble beating dust from a rug.

After an uneventful first round, Zaragoza, 44-7-2 (21), began to utilize his experience. He did the better work in rounds two through five, scoring with a multitude of lead lefts and counter right hooks. For his part, the onrushing Patterson, 48-2-1 (35), loaded up and fired one punch at a time.

Zaragoza's momentum came to a sudden halt in the sixth. After tagging his opponent with both hands over the round's first two minutes, Patterson unleashed a perfectly timed right cross with Zaragoza pinned on the ropes. The blow opened a small but deep cut above the Mexican's left eye, and blood immediately rained down Zaragoza's face.

After a futile attempt by his corner to close the cut, Zaragoza came out for the eighth firing in desperation. But 53 seconds in, referee Wayne Kelly (USA) directed the blood-soaked challenger to the ringside physician, and after a brief examination, the bout was halted.

After seven rounds, Patterson led on all three cards, though the judges seemed to overestimate his aggressiveness. Al DeCesare (USA) scored 59-55, Jean Thoreaux (Canada) 58-56, and Abraham Chavarria (Mexico) 59-57.

"This might be my last fight at 122 pounds," he said. "Once again I had to starve myself."

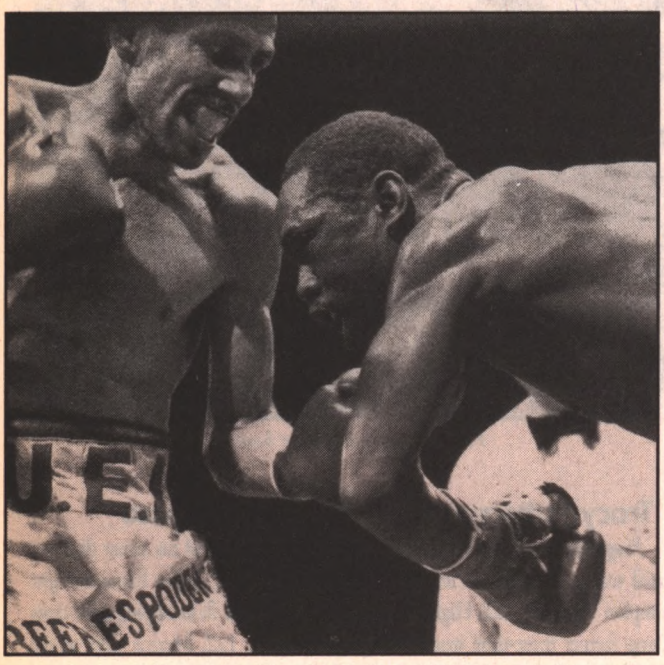
Said Zaragoza, "Unless I can get [Patterson] back in the ring, I doubt you'll see me again."

(9-25-93)

Vincent Damone

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Harold Warren

Inglewood, California: WBA junior lightweight champion "Chicanito" Hernandez, 130, Mission Viejo, California, celebrated his third wedding anniversary by outpointing top-ranked challenger Warren, 130, Corpus Christi, Texas, before a crowd of 4,915 at the Great Western Forum. It was Hernandez' sixth defense.



Hernandez enjoyed brawling with Warren

The decision was unanimous, with Lou Moret (USA) scoring 118-110, [illegible] Werner (USA) 119-109, and Jose Campos (Panama) 118-115. The referee [illegible] Larry Rozadilla (USA).

The 5'11" Hernandez possessed an eight-inch advantage in height and [illegible] inch edge in reach, but made things difficult by engaging in early-rou[illegible] infighting. Warren came forward relentlessly, throwing punches from all ang[illegible] including many that landed low. The challenger received several warnings f[illegible] Rozadilla, but was never penalized. The fighters also clashed heads on sev[illegible] occasions, and in round four Hernandez suffered a cut at the corner of his left e[illegible]

Initially content to fight with his back to the ropes, Hernandez, 29-0-1 [illegible] began to establish distance in the seventh. With the 33-year-old Warren begin[illegible] to tire, the champion pounded his rival with jabs, straight rights, and left hooks [illegible] the body. Warren, 25-6 (12), wasted a lot of punches, and his technique suffe[illegible] Hernandez, on the other hand, finished with plenty of energy in reserve.

"I made a mistake of trying to go toe to toe with him," said Hernandez [illegible] should have just outboxed him."

"I thought I got the fight by a head," said Warren. "But this is his ho[illegible] ground. I knew the gamble I was taking."

(10-11-93)

David Wood

Juan Coggi KO 10 Guillermo Cruz

Tucuman, Argentina: WBA junior welterweight champion Coggi, 140, [illegible] the fourth defense of his second reign, stopping Mexico's "Memo" Cruz, 13[illegible] before a crowd of 4,500 at Club Defensores de Villa Lujan.

The Argentine champion was content to wait for Cruz' attacks in the [illegible] going. Cruz often forced Coggi to the ropes, but was penalized a point by ref[illegible] Carlos Berrocal (Panama) for butting in round two.

The 31-year-old Coggi, a southpaw, began connecting with his vaunted [illegible] hand in the fifth. Cruz, 25, slowed down, and in the 10th he was stunned b[illegible] right hook to the face. Coggi, 64-2-2 (37), followed with a short left to the [illegible] plexus. Cruz, 22-9-1 (18), collapsed, spit out his blood-stained mouthpiece, a[illegible] was counted out. He remained on the canvas for 10 minutes.

The judges were Stuart Winston (USA), Luis Castellanos (Venezuela), a[illegible] Manuel Gonzalez (Panama).

(9-24-93)

Carlos Irusta

John David Jackson W 12 Reggie Johnson

Buenos Aires, Argentina: In the first-ever world title fight in Argen[illegible] involving two foreign fighters, Jackson, 159{1/2), Denver, Colorado, captured [illegible] WBA middleweight title with a close but unanimous decision over Johnson, 15[illegible] Houston, Texas, at Obras Stadium. It was Johnson's fourth defense.

Custodio Tovar (Venezuela) and Steve Smoger (USA) scored 115-114, a[illegible] Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) had it 115-113. THE RING saw Jackson the winner [illegible] two points. The referee was Oscar Coronel (Argentina).

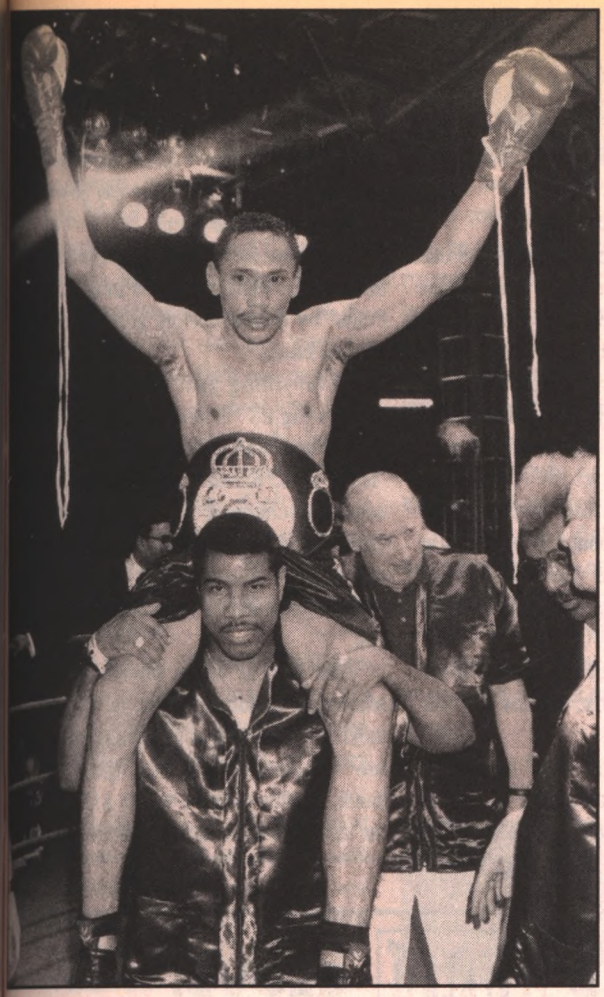
In an unemotional battle of southpaw boxers, the 30-year-old Jackson, 34[illegible] (17), showed more speed, especially in the late rounds. Johnson, 34-3-1 (2[illegible] opened with a body attack, but suffered a critical penalty when Coronel deduc[illegible] a point in round six for low punching. Without the deduction, Johnson wo[illegible] have kept the title by majority draw.

Jackson will make his first defense against Argentina's Jorge Castro, wh[illegible] kayoed Jorge Morello in five rounds on the undercard. Castro is 85-4-2 (59).

Promoters: Osvaldo Rivero and Luis Spada

(10-1-93)

Carlos Irusta



Espana won with no strings attached

Crisanto Espana KO 10 Donovan Boucher

Manchester, England: Clinically proficient and methodically accurate, Espana, 147, Belfast, Northern Ireland via Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, made a convincing second defense of the WBA welterweight title by way of 10th-round stoppage over the durable and courageous Boucher, 147, Toronto, Canada, in the principal support to Benn-Eubank at Old Trafford.

It proved a gradual grinding-down process which could have been terminated a couple of rounds sooner in order to spare the intransigent challenger unnecessary punishment. Characteristically composed, Espana was constantly in firm control, registering three knockdowns and inflicting numerous other wounding blows.

The challenger took the fight to Espana from the opening bell, a tactic which was doomed to failure as soon as the champion found the range with his piercing left jab. By mid-round he had done so, and a subsequent right hand unhinged Boucher's knees. The punch was merely a foretaste of another crunching right toward the end of the second which scored the initial knockdown.

Espana, 30-0 (25), further consolidated his position in rounds three through six, fending off the occasional Boucher riposte with complete ease. A sustained attack in the seventh, rounded off by a cracking left hook, resulted in the second knockdown. A hard and snappy left-right felled the 32-year-old Boucher, 29-5 (18), a third time in the 10th, and shortly afterward referee John Coyle (England) intervened at the 2:31 mark. Espana was far ahead on all three cards.

Promoters: Don King, Matchroom, Frank Warren

(10-9-93)

Brian Doogan

Anaclet Wamba KO 8 Akim Tafer

Paris, France: In an entertaining all-French encounter, Wamba, 195, overcame the strong challenge of Tafer, 194, to retain the WBC cruiserweight title at the Marcel Cerdan Sports Palace. It was his fifth defense.

After enduring severe seventh-round punishment that left him with a grossly swollen left eye, Tafer was unable to summon the effort to reconvene. It was a rather disappointing conclusion, although Wamba was so dominant at the end of the seventh that he would probably have convincingly finished the assignment in the next session.

Younger by some seven years, Tafer, 26, commenced battle in confident fashion, wresting the initiative with accurate jabs and a varied selection of punches. Wamba could not channel his aggression into an effective form of attack, and he absorbed some heavy punches during the first two rounds.

Wamba, 41-2 (20), warmed more to the task in the third and began landing purposeful punches. For his part the challenger landed less frequently and with decreasing authority, although often enough to keep Wamba occupied. Damage to Tafer's left eye surfaced during the sixth, and this proved a major factor in his ultimate decision to withdraw. The injury worsened in the seventh, which Tafer, 17-4 (11), began well. But Wamba's spirited rally broke his heart and his desire to continue. When the bell rang for round eight the challenger remained on his stool.

Said Wamba afterward, "I was extremely tired but was willing and able to continue."

After seven rounds, Larry O'Connell (England) and Raymond Bachelet (France) had Tafer ahead by 69-66 and 68-67, respectively. Armand Krief (France) scored 68-67 for Wamba.

The referee was Rolando Barrovecchio (Italy).

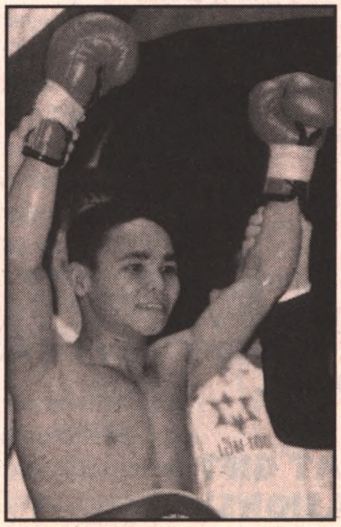
(10-16-93)

Brian Doogan

Ratanapol Sow Voraphin KO 4 Dominggus Siwalette

Bangkok, Thailand: Mighty Thai southpaw Sow Voraphin, 104, battered Indonesia's Siwalette, 103, opened a nasty cut over the challenger's left eye, and retained the IBF mini flyweight title before some 5,000 fans at the Hua Mark Gymnasium. It was his third defense.

The 20-year-old Sow Voraphin was aggressive from the start, firing sharp jabs and looping lefts. Siwalette fought back with one-twos, but the Thai found his range in the second and took control.



Sow Voraphin proved a cut above

Sow Voraphin, 15-2-1 (11), accelerated in the third, and in the fourth opened the fight-ending cut. Referee Abraham Pacheco (USA) twice brought Siwalette, a reported 28-1-2 (12), to the ringside physician. After the second examination the fight was stopped at the 2:22 mark.

The judges were Komol Patanapakdee (Thailand), Alex Villacampa (Philippines), and Peter Gedoan (Indonesia).

Promoter: Colonel Banchu Ongsangkhun's Blue Corner Promotions

(9-26-93)

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Mathis Jr.

(Continued from page 16)

jealous. I really wanted to belong."

Though he didn't realize it, Mathis had one thing going for him: his father. Buster Mathis Sr. had been one of the biggest and best heavyweights of the '60s. He earned a place on the 1964 Olympic team (but lost it to Joe Frazier because of an injury) and as a pro faced Frazier and Muhammad Ali. Oddly, Junior knew almost nothing about it.

"I only heard stories from teachers," he said. "We never talked about Dad's career at home. All I knew was he was my dad, and every time I did something wrong he spanked my behind."

When Junior approached his father with the desire to learn how to box, Mathis Sr. was shocked.

"I can still remember the day," he said. "I was sitting on a chair, watching TV, and he asked me. I told him to think about it for three, four weeks, figuring he'd forget about it. Bu another month he asked me again. So I t him to the gym and put him through hell. the start he couldn't jump rope *once*. I wan him to quit because I didn't know how ba he wanted to box. But every day he was re to come back to the gym."

The transformation was astounding: three years, Mathis reduced from 325 to 1 Pound by pound, feeling good about himse became easier.

"Everything just changed," said t heavyweight. "When I'd walk the stree people who had made fun of me would s 'Hey, Bus, loved your fight.' My whol wardrobe changed; no more baggy cloth Girls would come up to me and I knew how talk to them. What I learned was that how yo look at yourself is how others will look you."

After Mathis won a sub-novice title at t Michigan Golden Gloves, his father bega looking at him with a discerning eye. What saw was promising. A busy fighter with quic hands, Mathis went on to win a Gloves title the open class, compete in both national a

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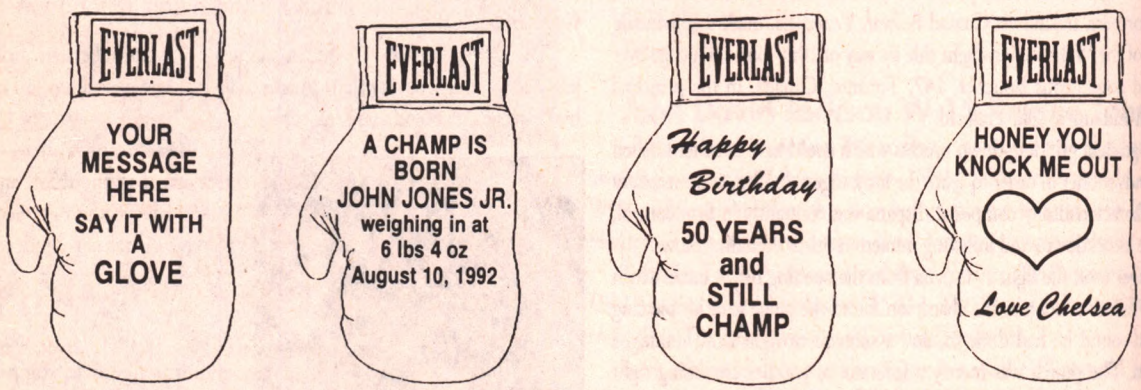

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ternational tournaments, and compile an overall record of 20-5.

When it became apparent Mathis was going to pursue a professional career, his father contacted Bill Cayton. The veteran manager seemed the obvious choice to guide the young heavyweight. Mathis Sr. had been tutored by the legendary Cus D'Amato, and Cayton and his partner, the late Jim Jacobs, had led D'Amato's prize protege, Mike Tyson, to the world heavyweight title. In fact, Junior's middle name is D'Amato. Only one problem: Cayton wasn't interested. (A short time later, he signed another young heavyweight, Jeremy Williams.) Mathis joined with manager Brian Lee and matchmaker Bruce Kielty. He is trained by his father, but because of kidney failure that requires dialysis three times a week, Mathis Sr. cannot accompany his son to fights or work his corner.

Both Mathis and the 21-year-old Williams are among a promising class of unbeaten heavyweight hopefuls that includes Samson Po'uha, David Tua, Shannon Briggs, and Larry Donald.

"Defensively, Mathis is way ahead of most of the other heavyweights out there," said Kielty. "His hand speed is exceptional, and there's no question about his chin. Levi Billups caught him in the ninth round of their fight, and I don't think Buster can be hit any harder. He took it and came back to drop Billups in the same round."

Mathis has been mixing boxing with college; he has an associate degree from Grand Rapids Community College and is currently taking a course in mathematics at Grand Valley State University. But if Lee and Kielty are able to close the bout they want, a challenge of USBA titlist Mike "The Bounty" Hunter, school may have to wait. A victory would result in a top-10 ranking and an opportunity to secure major purses.

"If he won the world title it would be fantastic," said Mathis Sr. "But if he was number two or three and made some money and stayed healthy, I'd be happy."

Mathis Sr. says his son has no weaknesses, but one question remains: Can a heavyweight who has scored only three knockouts in 12 fights compete against the division's powerpunchers?

"The kayo percentage would bother me if he was a runner," said Kielty. "But the fact that he's making the fight all the time ... We've never had anyone say they were disappointed in one of his fights."

"The power will come later," says Junior. "My father stresses that it's more important to be in shape and be able to do 10 hard rounds."

That's just what Mathis did in his points win over Mike Dixon in October. At first glance, the 23-year-old heavyweight seemed poorly conditioned; standing 6-feet and scaling 227, he was flabby around the sides. But for 10 rounds he set a torrid pace, tossing more punches than some heavyweight fire in five fights. Overwhelmed, Dixon spent most of the fight backed against the ropes, and Mathis triumphed by scores of 100-91, 99-91, and 98-92.

"Ten rounds is easy to me," Mathis explained. "I can do it on my toes."

Not bad for a fighter who once couldn't touch his toes, who once weighed 325 pounds, who was told by his snickering teachers that all he'd ever amount to was a zookeeper.

Make no mistake: Mathis may not eat like he once did, but that doesn't mean he's not still hungry. ■

Trinidad

(Continued from page 21)

Trinidad is being rushed simply because television needs fresh boxing blood to boost deteriorating ratings. Indeed, when THE RING spoke with Trinidad and Chade two days before the Stephens fight, they were already looking past Hector Camacho, the man most frequently mentioned as Trinidad's next challenger.

"As long as we are paid the right money, we will fight [WBA champion] Espana after we beat Camacho," said Chade.

"Camacho is very popular, but to me he is just another fighter," echoed Trinidad with the nonchalant air of a man used to leveling opposition with one or two swings.

In the light of his ragged outing against Stephens, a bout with the erstwhile "Macho Man" seems at least a minor gamble. Nevertheless, according to Al Braverman, King's director of boxing, plans call for a match in early-1994.

"Trinidad has a great deal of talent, but he's green," said Showtime boxing boss Jay Larkin. "Showtime is not in the matchmaking business, but if I were managing Trinidad I wouldn't put him in with Camacho right now. Even with all

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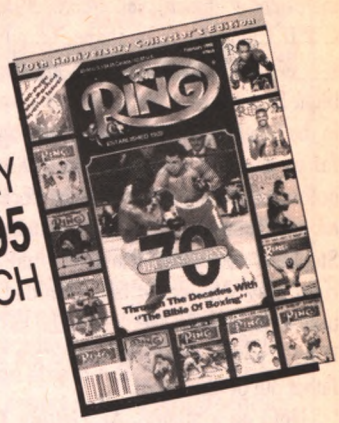

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the wear and tear on Hector, it's still like matching a Ford Taurus against a Porsche. What Felix needs is a series of fights against an increasingly higher level of competition."

"If Camacho is in shape, he punches the s___ out of Trinidad," growled the always-blunt Braverman. "We found out a lot of things in the Stephens fight. It was a real barometer as far as this kid was concerned. Stephens is nothing special, just an honest workman, and he had Trinidad eating right hands. Luckily, Stephens poops out. But I can find five guys right now who could belt Trinidad out. The trouble is, nobody ever taught the kid properly. If he's gonna improve, we've got to get his father out of the corner."

Hold on a minute, Al. Getting Trinidad's father, Felix Sr., out of the corner seems about as likely as King getting a crewcut. It was the elder Trinidad, Puerto Rican featherweight champion in the late-'70s, who inspired his son to become a fighter. The boy started tagging along with his dad when he was nine, running with him in the mornings and sweating alongside him at the gym during the afternoons. It is not the sort of bond that will be easily severed.

"Felix Sr. is a great trainer," insists Chade. "You have some who train very good, but don't know how to talk in the corner. And you have some who know how to talk in the corner, but don't know how to train. Others are good at two or three things, but don't know how to bandage hands. But God gave his father a gift. He can do it all. He used to train Julio Gervacio, the former WBA junior featherweight champion. He turned down an offer from Don King to train many other fighters because he wants to give all his attention to his son."

It doesn't sound like Felix Sr. will be turning over the reins any time soon. And maybe that's the way it should be. Chade, who previously managed Kid Gavilan and Wilfredo Gomez, has always had an uncanny ability for spotting talent.

"In the beginning, nobody believed in Trinidad," said Chade, who resembles a Middle-Eastern Adolphe Menjou. "I offered him to all the promoters: Arum, Duva, Barry Hearn, [Roberto] Sabbatini, the Acaries brothers. Nobody believed he was going to be the next sensation. Even the president of the Puerto Rican commission, when the W made Felix number 25, wanted to know h Jose Sulaiman could rate him. Only Don K had faith in him."

In the wake of the Stephens fight, naysayers have resurfaced, eager to find with the unbeaten slugger. But let's not sight of the fact that he *did* bounce back the rocky third round to halt Stephens. And not the first time he's come off the floor to In his 16th pro bout, Trinidad traveled France to fight Argentina's Alberto Cort 50-fight veteran with only two losses on slate. Cortes floored the youngster in second, but was on the receiving end of su severe hammering in the third that the fight stopped.

A wicked puncher with the ability overcome adversity has always been regard as someone special. And if Chade is corr the rapidly growing Trinidad—he's expected be a junior middleweight by this time n year— could become the biggest boxing Puerto Rico has produced since Gomez Wilfred Benitez each won three world titles.

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Chade, recalling the most celebrated boxer 's managed. "But you know Gavilan's story. liked the girls and other things. Felix is not that; he doesn't drink, he's very quiet. efore turning pro, he was studying at the niversity of Puerto Rico to become a CPA. ow he is continuing to study via a rrespondence course. In two or three years, 's going to be the best fighter in the world, ound for pound."

Maybe. Maybe not. The Camacho fight ould answer some questions, proposed bouts gainst Whitaker, Espana, and Chavez even ore. But if the critics are right and Trinidad rns out to be just another overhyped, china-inned flop, he'll still be the hardest-hitting ccountant in the Caribbean. ■

Jones

(Continued from page 37)

prove. He'd have a terrible day, two or three d rounds sparring [Jones regularly sparred ith featherweights and lightweights], and rn out of the ring and cry and not finish his rkout. We'd talk, and I'd explain how, no tter how you feel, you have to perform.

"In the beginning he was resentful. He'd y, 'I can never do enough to please you.' I d him developing his character outside the g was just as important as what happened side. There's no doubt in my mind he derstands now. After all, when a tough ment comes, you are what you are."

***

Arriving in Atlantic City four days before e fight, Julio, who had fought outside of olombia only once before, was far more ose and confident than might have been pected. He was also relieved.

"I thought he was taller," he said, eying the " Jones. "I've fought opponents taller than m."

Having viewed three or four tapes, Julio adily acknowledged the challenger's talent. t when asked about Jones' weaknesses, his alysis proved prophetic.

"When he attacks," said the Colombian unterpuncher, "he has problems with his fense."

For the first three rounds at the Copa Room f the Sands Hotel & Casino, Jones, 118, rooklyn, New York, had no problems of any nd. Julio, 118, San Onofre, Colombia, hoped to counter, but Jones' jab pushed him back, and when the champion did punch, his blows fell harmlessly short. In the first round he dealt with his frustration by smiling. In the second round he turned southpaw. Had the fight not turned in his favor, he might've had to resort to tossing rosin into Jones' eyes.

"My job was to keep everything on the outside," said Jones. Indeed, Fariello had predicted that Julio would have no antidote for Poison's jab.

There was a subtle shift in the fourth, which the high-energy champion carried on two cards. Julio, 26-1 (22), began to inch closer, forcing Jones, 31-0 (22), into a more cautious mode. There was nothing subtle about the fifth. Jones fought back admirably after the knockdown, but had nonetheless been proven vulnerable. It took him four rounds to fully recover.

"S___ happens," Jones said after the bout. "I dropped my hands—that's what I did wrong. I went down, but I got up like a champion and won the fight."

"[Late in the fight] Junior kept saying, 'I can't believe I got knocked down,'" said Fariello. "I said, 'That was *seven* rounds ago!'"

Jones began the sixth as he had closed the fifth. It was a furious three minutes, with the banties neglecting technique in battling bomb for bomb. Even the crowd responded, which, in an Atlantic City casino, usually happens only when a crapshooter makes his third consecutive pass. Jones took the round on all three cards, then slumped badly. In the seventh, eighth, and ninth, the indefatigable Julio, no longer a shifty counterpuncher, bulled into Jones. He landed only a few meaningful punches, but tightly grabbed the momentum. Seemingly spent, Jones repeatedly looked to his corner and complained to referee Rudy Battle about butts. Moreover, he incessantly held.

"I warned him between rounds," said Battle. "I hate to stop the action to do that."

After nine rounds, the fight was even on two cards, with Jones leading by three points on the third. Fariello told the challenger one comeback hadn't been enough. If Jones wanted the title, he'd have to stage another. It was a lot to ask. But Fariello knew he had a lot of fighter.

Jones punched often enough in the 10th to draw blood from a cut at the corner of Julio's right eye. He swept the round, then exploded

(Continued on page 56)

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Jones

(Continued from page 55)

early in the 11th with a straight right. Julio retreated a couple of steps before toppling. Upon rising, the Colombian fought back fiercely, but Jones was the sharper puncher. At the bell the challenger released a scream. After 11 rounds of give-and-take, he was ready to claim his reward.

When Jones stood on his stool before the start of the 12th, Julio must have thought his opponent was seven-feet tall. Bleeding from a variety of cuts, the champion kept moving into Jones' resurgent jab. He also walked into one last big right, and then a followup right uppercut. Boom! Downed for the second time in two rounds, Julio was almost finished. He climbed to his feet once more, with the final bell sounding as Battle completed the mandatory count.

Jones' late rally resulted in a unanimous decision. Guy Jutras (Canada) and Fernando Viso (Venezuela) scored 116-111, and Al DeVito (USA) 117-109. THE RING saw it for Jones by 116-110.

***

Three days after his coronation, Jones began an interview with, "I've never been sore like this before." Julio, he said, had visited him in his dressing room after the fight and told him he was a great champion. That was class.

"I still can't believe he put me down," he said. "They say the hardest shots are the ones you don't see coming. All I remember is looking at my boxing shoes, and they were too close to my eyes. I was more embarrassed than hurt."

Jones sounded like a winner; he spoke of confidence, of big money, of a lengthy run as champion, whatever the weight class.

"It would have been easy to pack it in in that fifth round," he said. "But now that I've dealt with adversity like that, what could possibly stop me?"

Even the prospect of one more toe-to-toe go with Renee couldn't shake him.

"Remember," he pointed out, "she never had me down." ■

British

(Continued from page 42)

enthralling. In sharp contrast, Lewis-Bru was perceived as more of a carnival-typ fight, two Britons contesting the wor heavyweight championship for the first ti since dinosaurs were healthy inhabitants o Earth. Opinions were plentiful regarding ho fights, but the consensus was Eubank wou prove too strong for Benn, and Lewis wou have more trouble fielding questions from skeptical press than dealing with th ponderous punches of Bruno.

More than 40,000 spectators turned up Old Trafford for Benn-Eubank, while 16 million tuned in to live TV coverage. As rounds transpired it became increasing apparent that the intensity of their previ battle was being replaced by a discerni more patient and cautious approach. T recklessness that had generated so mu

(Continued on page

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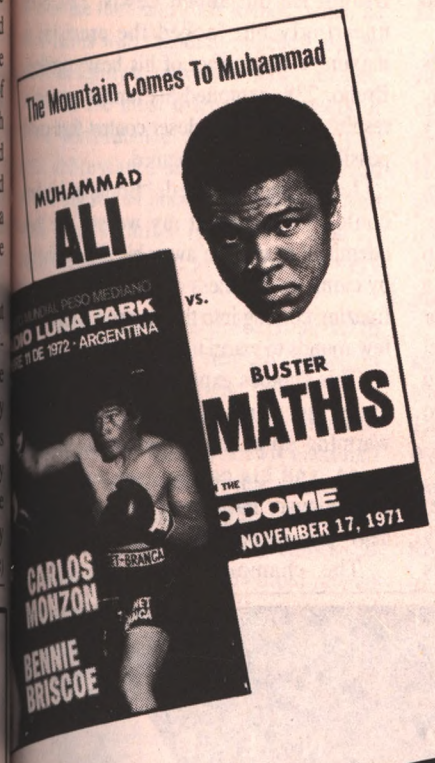

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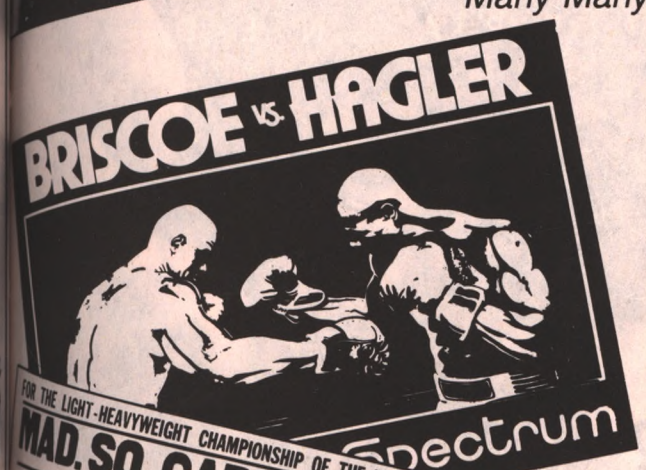

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British

(Continued from page 56)

exciting exchanges three years before now gave way to thoughtful maneuvers and more tedious passages than expected.

After a fairly innocuous first round, Benn, 167, broke through in the second with a sharp right hook and jarring left that left Eubank, 168, showing signals of distress. Clearly encouraged, Benn further compressed the throttle in round three and initiated some of the most relentless exchanges of the fight.

The impetus alternated through rounds four and five before a crucial moment in the sixth. Benn had been admonished on four previous occasions for low punching, and when another blow strayed south, referee Larry O'Connell (England) had no credible alternative other than to deduct a point. As it turned out, this indiscretion cost Benn the fight.

Quite how judge Carol Castellano (USA) managed to give Benn each of the final six rounds defies belief, although the fact that only four rounds on the scorecards were marked unanimously reflects the difficulty in interpreting some of the sessions. Eubank, 35-0-2 (18), finished the struggle stronger, but Benn, 37-2-1 (32), had seemed in more effective control of the fight and appeared to just nick the verdict.

Absolutely convinced he had crushed his nemesis, Benn was nearly livid when Jimmy Lennon Jr. announced the decision. Harry Gibbs (England) scored 115-113 in Eubank's favor. Castellano saw it 114-113 for Benn, and Chuck Hassett (USA) could not separate them at 114-114. THE RING recorded Benn the winner by 114-113. The result ensured a status quo and seriously hampered plans for either man facing IBF champion Michael Nunn, which had been the anticipated scenario. Eubank and Benn are unlikely to meet again before next summer.

***

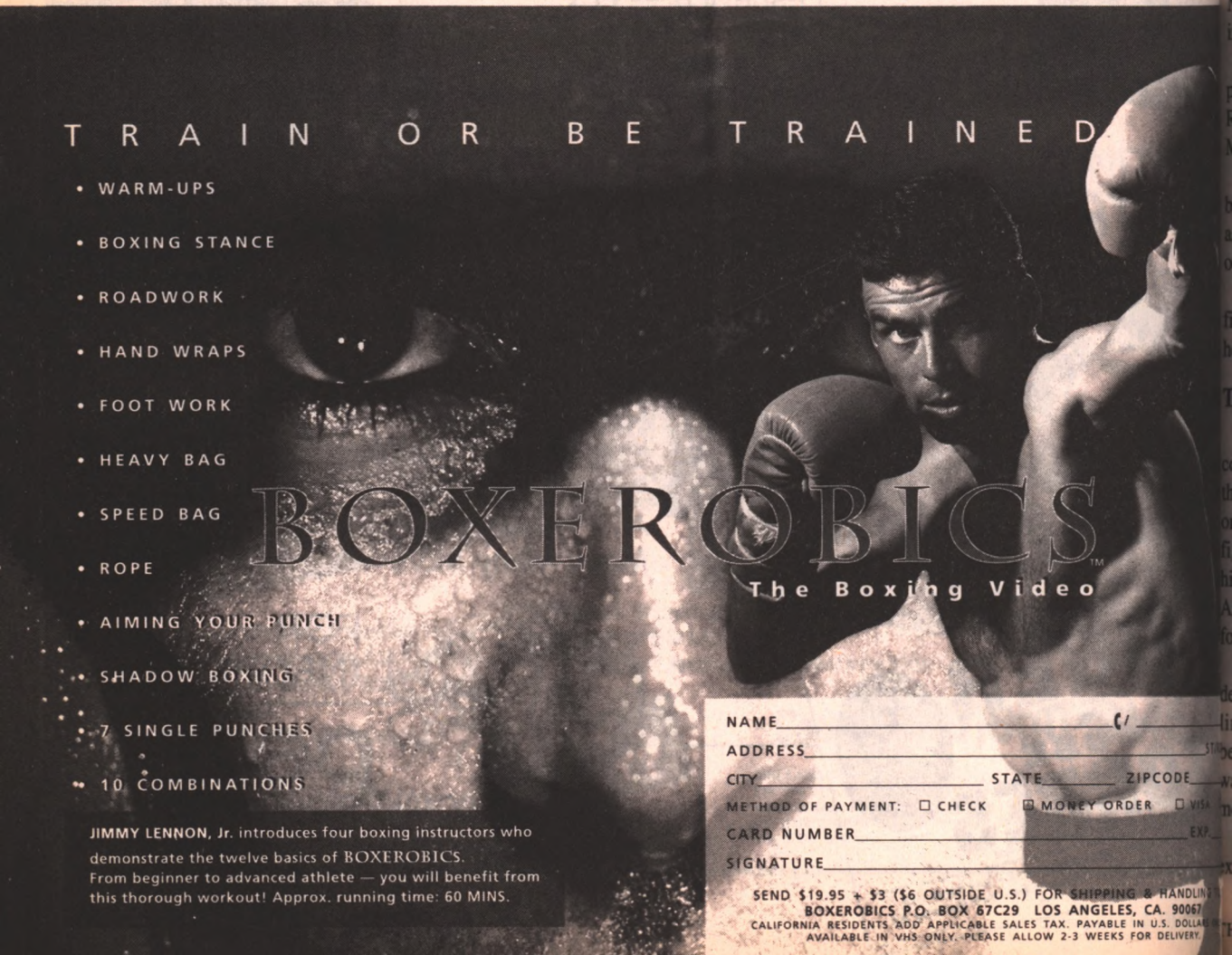
The story of Lewis-Bruno is simple: Bruno fought positively and aggressively and, despite defeat, could be proud of his performance; Lewis' closing burst was p class, but too much of what went before unbefitting a man perceived as the princ threat to Bowe.

Until the sweeping left hook precipitated Lewis' victory, the m dangerous combatant unmistakably Bruno. He outjabbed Lewis, 229, q unerringly but lacked the precision maximize the impact of his heavy artill Bruno, 238, exploited his limited resour resulting in a much closer contest than co possibly have been imagined.

Lewis later declared, "Bruno at his b couldn't beat me at my worst." He th attempted to explain away his sloppy displ by citing the coolness of the night air: "I freezing coming into the ring and it took m few rounds to warm up."

This dubious explanation hardly bears under scrutiny. He surely underwe warming up exercises before entering arena, and his corner even adopted precautionary measure of wrapping him heavy blanket between rounds.

The champion began the fight



commanding enough fashion, securing the round on all three cards. But when Bruno started to utilize double- and even triple-jabs in the second, the complexion changed. It seemed at times that Lewis might even struggle to accomplish a supposedly straightforward result. Bruno reinforced this belief in the third and fifth rounds, when he shook Lewis with thudding punches. But he lacked the agility to maximize his advantage.

One of the most disturbing aspects of Lewis' performance was his tendency to make abbreviated surges, which raised serious questions about his stamina. And when your stamina is suspect against someone like Bruno, something is very fundamentally amiss.

Despite enduring a precarious sixth round, Bruno, 36-4 (35), steadied himself in the seventh. He backed Lewis, 24-0 (20), to a neutral corner and unleashed a venomous two-fisted assault. Suddenly, Lewis measured him with a consummate left that dismantled Bruno completely, leaving him in a familiar position of being out on his feet. Almost 20 unanswered punches followed before referee Mickey Vann (England) belatedly intervened.

After six rounds, the fight was even on points. Tony Castellano (USA) and Jerry Roth (USA) both scored 57-57, while Adrian Morgan (Wales) had Bruno ahead by 59-55.

"I think, as us British say, I did pretty bloody well, old chap," was Bruno's assessment of his display. "I'm going to chill out before considering my future."

He has no more plausible option than to finally call it a day. But after chilling out, he's decided to fight on.

THE IMPLICATIONS

The fact that neither Benn nor Eubank could beat each other doesn't say much for their chances when they encounter a Toney or a Nunn. Nunn was at ringside for their fight and witnessed nothing that perturbed him. After watching a delayed showing on American TV, Toney was characteristically forthright.

"They're even worse than I thought," he declared. "It was a good fight between two limited guys. Benn held back in fear of being knocked out. Eubank's top priority was survival. Neither one has a chance with me."

Toney's manager, Jackie Kallen, expressed her willingness to match the IBF titlist with either Englishman.

"I'd love to bring the world's best pound-for-pound fighter to England," she proclaimed.

"We'd prefer Benn to be the opponent, as he's known in the U.S. James feels Benn won in Manchester. But we're happy to give Eubank his chance as well."

Although Toney has an HBO date in January, Eubank and Benn are unlikely opponents. Benn is scheduled to make a mandatory defense against countryman Henry Wharton, while Eubank looks set to give yet another countryman, Ray Close, a rematch after their draw in May. Nunn will be similarly disappointed in his quest to immediately meet Benn or Eubank.

"I would love to fight either fighter," he said. "My goal is to fight the best around, and Chris and Nigel fall into that category. Their match was too close to call, but when they finally get a winner I'll be happy to meet him."

Benn is just about as exciting a fighter as there is in boxing, and Eubank is as difficult to defeat as Kasparov at chess. When they meet the top brass in Nunn and Toney, their true worth will finally be known.

***

The next engagement for Lewis was to be in March at the newly opened MGM Grand in Las Vegas against Tommy "The Duke" Morrison. But Morrison's shocking defeat at the hands of obscure London-born heavyweight Michael Bentt had a domino effect. Lewis won't fight Morrison and Bowe may not fight mandatory contender Michael Moorer—but only if a Lewis match can be made. The showdown would seem timely for Lewis, who has few options. (As we went to press, Bowe was scheduled to defend against Evander Holyfield on November 6.)

Whether his next opponent is Bowe, Bentt, or Prince Charles, Lewis will probably never look worse than he did against Bruno. He should be sharper and fitter against Bowe, and such a showdown will provide hefty motivation.

So it's onward and just about upward for Benn, Eubank, and Lewis. Bruno should probably resume a flourishing pantomime career. But the prospect of Saddam buying the Emir a Coca-Cola remains distinctly remote. ■

Brian Doogan is The Ring's correspondent in Great Britain.

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Sharkey

(Continued from page 45)

defensive genius and cutting counterpunches would likely have proven too much for crude slugger Sharkey, but the tearaway Irishman would not have let his bigger foe relax his guard for a second.

Giving away four inches in height and 10 pounds on the scales would not have bothered Sharkey any. Nearly every man he faced in the ring towered over him. But they all looked the same stretched out on the canvas, which was the fate of most of his opponents in a nine-year career that saw him lose just six times in 53 fights.

Tearing in with both fists flying, with little regard for what he might suffer in reply, was the only way he knew how to fight. Even in 1934, at the well-advanced age of 61, and in what was meant to be a harmless exhibition between two of the ring's great names, he wasn't about to change the habits of a lifetime.

Though it had been 19 years since he surrendered his world heavyweight crown to Jess Willard under a hot Havana sun, Johnson still cut quite an impressive figure. His trunks might have been hitched high to partly hide his expanding waistline, but the muscular definition of his arms and upper body were reminders of a once-magnificent physical specimen.

Sharkey, too, retained much of his powerful figure, the thick chest bearing its familiar sailing ship tattoo topped by a huge star, and the square jaw set in grim determination to put on a good show against the man many experts tagged the greatest heavyweight of them all.

At the bell, Johnson, flashing the gold-toothed grin that had infuriated opponents when the fighting was for real, eased forward, his waist-high fists weaving their customary pattern. His smile quickly evaporated and his large brown eyes shot wide open as he saw Sailor Tom coming toward him like he had been fired from a ship's cannon.

Proving that even at age 56 his renowned reflexes hadn't deserted him, Johnson picked off his opponent's introductory left swing with his right forearm, then grabbed Sharkey's right fist under his left arm to prevent the intended followup blow. It was the old master showing he hadn't forgotten the tricks.

Pulling the squat Irishman in close so that Sharkey's misshapen left ear (a souvenir of his many hard battles) rested against his chest, Johnson whispered into his good ear, "Hey Tom, what are you trying to do to me?"

Sharkey's reply was a snarled swear word as he wrenched himself free and tossed another wild swing, which Johnson avoided with ease. Sharkey never gave up his attempts to put a haymaker on the elusive former champion. Johnson was mighty relieved to hear the final bell.

Jack wasn't the first world heavyweight title to learn the short, thick-set Irishman was no pushover. Back in 1896, Corbett took on Sharkey and was lucky to get a draw. The contest was limited to four rounds, at Corbett's insistence. He had announced his retirement the previous year to take up an acting career, and was now in the initial stages of a comeback.

Out of condition after a tiring theatrical and personal appearance tour, "Gentleman Jim" boxed the head off the untutored Irishman

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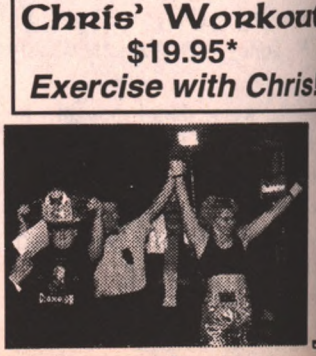

two rounds—then ran out of steam. Sharkey roughed him up so badly that Corbett slumped on his stool after the four rounds and didn't leave the ring for half an hour. In his autobiography *The Roar Of The Crowd,* Corbett made the ludicrous claim that Sharkey didn't hit him once, but he did admit he had underrated his opponent's strength.

Two years later, Corbett, having lost the world title to Bob Fitzsimmons, again faced Sharkey in a bid to cement his claim to another crack at Fitz' crown. In his book, Jim made another extraordinary claim—that Sharkey had agreed there would be no infighting. Such a pact, if true, was sensibly ignored by Sailor Tom, who wasn't about to surrender the one area where he would be the master craftman's superior.

Floored in the second round, Corbett used his skill to pick up long-range points. But his ribs took an unmerciful battering from the aggressive Sharkey. By the ninth round, Corbett was weary and dejected. One of his seconds, Jim McVey, fearing his man's humiliation, jumped into the ring, claiming a foul by Sharkey. But the referee, "Honest" John Kelly, disqualified *Corbett.*

Sharkey claimed another heavyweight champion's scalp when he was declared the winner against Fitzsimmons. But again it was via unsatisfying ruling, an alleged low blow. "Ruby Robert" risked his life by vehemently disputing the decision, for the referee was none other than notorious gunfighter Wyatt Earp.

Fitzsimmons had won and lost the world crown before he met up again with Sharkey, at Coney Island in 1900. Sharkey suffered the most comprehensive defeat of his career when smashed down for the full count in the second round, but not before he had Fitz on the floor in the opening session.

Sharkey's reputation as a tough nut was never more clearly defined than in a riotous clash with fellow Irishman Peter Maher at the Palace Athletic Club in New York. Sailor Tom had his rival down and almost out in the sixth round, but in the next session it was his turn to hit the canvas. After the knockdown Sharkey jumped to his feet and tore into Maher like a madman.

The bell rang, but Sharkey still flailed away. The referee failed to stop him, so the police joined in. Still Sharkey swung away, hurting his own second, Joe Choynski, and opening a deep gash on an opposing cornerman's forehead. Finally, a rope was wound around the wild Irishman before he could wreak further damage. The referee called the bout a draw.

Sharkey notched impressive knockouts over some of the top-notchers of the period, men like Choynski, Gus Ruhlin, Joe Goddard, and one-time middleweight champion Kid McCoy. But it was his losing battles with the mighty Jeffries that ensured his recognition as one of the division's toughest and bravest campaigners. In two encounters lasting a combined 45 rounds, Sharkey, outweighed by 35 pounds and six inches shorter, doggedly refused to be crushed by "The California Grizzly Bear." Moreover, there were quite a few experts who alleged he was robbed of the world title in a grueling 25-rounder.

Both Sharkey and Jeffries were undefeated when they first paired off in San Francisco on May 6, 1898. After a bruising 20 rounds, Jeffries took a close decision. He promised Sailor Tom that if he won the world heavyweight title, he would give him first crack at it. He was as good as his word.

Five months after he dethroned Fitzsimmons, Big Jeff put his title on the line against Sharkey at New York's Coney Island Athletic Club on November 3, 1899. Thousands of fans braved a steady downpour to pay from $5 to $35 to witness the two men wage battle for sport's greatest prize and a $25,000 purse, winner take all.

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Sharkey dismissed his physical disadvantages by adopting an aggressive role, shaking off the bigger man's heavy punches and getting home with punishing shots of his own. He shook Jeffries with a left hook in the sixth round, and the champion finished the round bleeding from the mouth and ear.

By the 10th round, the Irishman was considered ahead. He had pounded the champion's body until it was black and blue, and had inflicted severe facial damage. But Sharkey, too, had not escaped unhurt. His forehead was gashed and one ear was torn. It was only afterward revealed that Sailor Tom had battled from the third round onward with two broken ribs.

In the 17th round, Sharkey straightened up the crouching Jeffries with a right uppercut, then smashed a terrific left to the jaw. Sharkey later said it was the hardest punch he ever landed on

(Continued on page 64)

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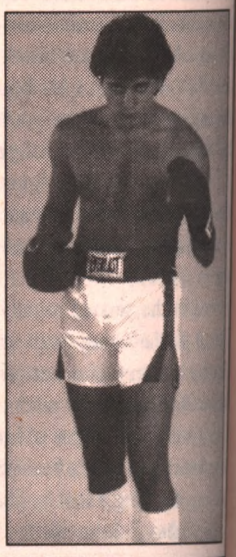

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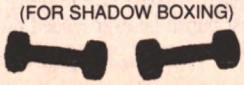

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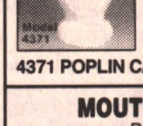

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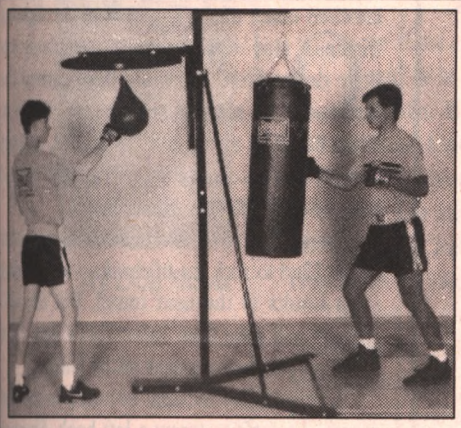

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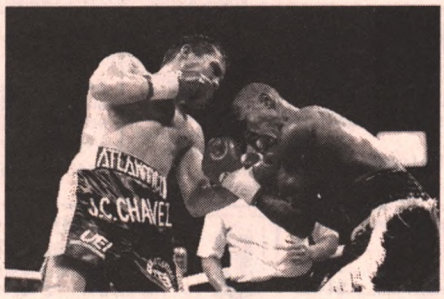

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Sharkey

(Continued from page 61)

anyone. But Jeff just shook his head and resume his onward march.

The failure to drop the rock-hard champion knocked much of the heart out of the fighting Irishman. Had it been a 20-rounder, there was little doubt Sharkey would have earned the verdict and his place as heavyweight champion. From the 20th to the end of the 25th, Jeffries displayed amazing recuperative powers and battered the challenger without mercy.

Sharkey survived two tremendous uppercuts in the 22nd to rock the titleholder with thudding right hooks in the next round. But the real strength had gone from Sailor Tom's fists. Most of the punishment was dealt out by Jeffries.

A remarkable incident occurred in the last round. As Jeffries threw a left hook, Sharkey clamped his arm down on the glove. The force of the blow sent the Irishman tumbling to the canvas, and as Sharkey fell, he pulled off the champion's glove. Siler tried to restore the glove, but, in the meantime, Sharkey had regained his feet and was anxious to get on with the fight.

Sharkey dodged around the official and threw a punch at Jeffries. The champion yanked his hand free from the referee's grasp and hit back at Sharkey—with his bare fist. It was the only time a fight was contested with gloves and bare knuckles at the same time.

By the time the referee sorted things out, the final bell had rung. Jeffries was the winner and still champion. The verdict met with a storm of protests from the pro-Sharkey crowd. Even the neutrals thought the game Irishman deserved at least a draw. He had forced the action for two thirds of the way, even if he took a pounding in the last third.

Years later, Jeffries told The Ring founder/editor, Nat Fleischer, "They came no greater than Tom Sharkey. I split his eye open and his ear was swollen as big as my fist. When I landed a blow on it, it was like hitting a big sponge. Yet he wouldn't think of quitting. I broke two of his ribs and still he kept coming at me. He was as game a fighter as I've ever seen."

When Jeffries died in March 1953, Sharkey said, "Well, I finally beat him." Within a month Sailor Tom, too, was dead. There never was much between them.

Patrick Myler is a freelance writer based in Dublin, Ireland.

Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

One of the collectibles most often photocopied and sent to me for identification is the arcade or "Exhibit" card. It is more aptly named the arcade card because it could be purchased from machines in penny arcades. The most prolific producer of arcade cards was the Exhibit Supply Co. of Chicago, hence the alternate name. Most folks just call them Exhibits.

From 1921 through about 1964, machines could be found in arcades and tent shows next to pinball machines. Just pop in your penny, pull the lever, and out pops ... Hopalong Cassidy. Or Babe Ruth. Or Rocky Marciano. Or Harry Greb. Or Joe Louis. These cards are postcard-sized cardboard pictures of athletes, movie stars, and many other subjects. Collecting all sorts of arcade cards is a hobby unto itself.

The best era for boxing Exhibits was 1921-1928. Back then, the cards usually included the records of the fighters on the back. Some of the more obscure fighters in the '20s are hard to find in record books, so their records are useful. Moreover, the cards were produced in color—red, orange, blue, green, gray, and yellow. Exhibit had a rival who put "not to be used in exhibit machines" on the backs of their cards.

Some cards featured fighters on both sides (fairly rare). Some had tales of the tape from potential fights involving the leading heavyweights of the day. Jack Sharkey, Jack Dempsey, Harry Wills, and Gene Tunney can all be found squaring off against each other. There was also a series of scenes from the Tunney-Dempsey long-count fight, as well as series on individual fighters like Tunney, Dempsey, Max Schmeling, and Primo Carnera.

There was a period of low productivity in the '30s, but the cards resurfaced in the '40s and '50s. The '60s were represented by one 16-card set of Cassius Clay/Muhammad Ali. Some cards include facsimile signatures. These never even approximate the fighters' actual signatures.

Arcade cards can be tough to date. During the '20s, there was usually a copyright date on the back. After that it becomes more difficult; a number of cards were reprinted from earlier years, and the color of the ink might have varied only a bit. Or one year would include "printed in the USA" on the cards, and the next year "made in the USA," with no other distinguishable features.

But whatever the year, these cards are great to collect. They can be found at sports memorabilia shows, flea markets, and postcard shows. Prices may vary dramatically. A sports dealer might sell a vintage Rocky Marciano card in mint condition for as much as $150-200, while a flea market is hawking the same card for 50 cents.

Remember, condition is important. Collectors will buy cards from the '20s in somewhat worn condition at a lower price, but few will buy a '50s card in less than excellent condition at any price. Cards from that era, even in mint condition, can be readily found. Here's a price guide:

Common cards from the '20s in EX	$25-30
Jack Dempsey from the '20s in EX	$150; other stars $50-70
Commons in the '40s & '50s MT	$1-5
Sugar Ray Robinson MT	$40
Rocky Marciano MT	$150
Cassius Clay MT	$100

There have been a few attempts at compiling checklists, but to my knowledge none has been printed. The arcade guru is Bob Schulhof, who publishes a newsletter for arcade collectors entitled "Penny Arcade." I'll forward any inquiries to him.

Remember, not all postcards were available in arcades, and not all arcade cards have postcard backs. There are a lot of other boxing postcards, but we'll leave that for another time. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collector's News. He can be reached through THE RING.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC
as of August

WBA
as of August

IBF
as of October

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Riddick Bowe (USA)	–	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	2	3
Oliver McCall (USA)	2	3	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	3	1	1
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	4	4
Frank Bruno (GB)	5	5	9
Lionel Butler (USA)	6	–	–
Alex Stewart (JAM)	7	11	12
Joe Hipp (USA)	8	–	–
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	10	–
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	10	9	–
Alex Miroshinichenko (RUS)	25	6	–
Herbie Hide (GB)	–	7	7
Alex Garcia (USA)	24	8	–
Bruce Seldon (USA)	13	–	5
George Foreman (USA)	–	–	6
Corrie Sanders (SA)	14	12	8
Mike Hunter (USA)	15	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	–	–
Bobby Czyz (USA)	–	C	–
Alfred Cole (USA)	–	–	C
Akim Tafer (FRA)	1	4	7
Orlin Norris (USA)	2	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	3	5	2
Arthur Williams (USA)	4	3	4
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	5	11	–
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	6	2	5
Robert Daniels (USA)	7	7	11
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	8	6	9
Kenny Keene (USA)	9	9	–
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	10	–	–
James Warring (USA)	12	8	–
Frans Botha (SA)	–	10	–
Uriah Grant (USA)	–	–	3
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	–	6
Jade Scott (USA)	14	–	8
Richard Mason (USA)	11	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	–	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	–	C	–
Henry Maske (GER)	–	–	C
Randall Yonker (USA)	1	7	–
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	3
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	–	8
Ernie Magdaleno (USA)	4	10	1
Egerton Marcus (CAN)	5	11	5
Eddy Smulders (HOLL)	6	3	10
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	7	6	11
Crawford Ashley (GB)	8	8	–
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	9	–	–
David Vedder (USA)	10	–	–
Wang Sup Lee (KOR)	12	2	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	17	4	9
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	–	5	–
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	27	9	–
Charles Williams (USA)	11	–	2
Adolpho Washington (USA)	–	–	4
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	–	–	6
Darius Michaelczewski (POL)	14	12	7

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	–	–
Michael Nunn (USA)	–	C	–
James Toney (USA)	–	–	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	7	6
Tim Littles (USA)	2	1	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	3	5	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	4	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	5	2	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	6	12	3
Tony Byrd (USA)	7	3	5
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	8	4	–
Ray Close (GB)	9	–	9
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	10	–	–
Iran Barkley (USA)	–	6	–
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	–	8	–
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	11	9	–
Merqui Sosa (DR)	28	10	8
Steve Little (USA)	18	–	4
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	17	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gerald McClellan (USA)	C	–	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	C	–
Roy Jones (USA)	–	–	C
Lamar Parks (USA)	1	2	3
Julian Jackson (VI)	2	–	5
Thomas Tate (USA)	3	–	8
Otis Grant (CAN)	4	10	9
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	5	–	–
Steve Collins (IRE)	6	4	–
Frank Grant (GB)	7	–	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	8	–	4
Roberto Duran (PAN)	9	9	–
Jorge Castro (ARG)	10	5	–
John David Jackson (USA)	–	1	–
Joe Gatti (CAN)	–	3	–
Mike McCallum (JAM)	–	6	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	12	7	–
Shinji Takehara (JAP)	22	8	–
Manuel Medina (SPA)	–	–	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	27	–	–

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	–	–
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	–	C	–
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	–	–	–
Simon Brown (USA)	1	5	1
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	2	4	–
Carl Daniels (USA)	3	6	–
Stephen Martinez (USA)	4	–	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	5	9	–
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	6	2	–
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	–	–
Joe Gatti (CAN)	8	–	–
Andy Till (GB)	9	–	–
Alain Bonnamie (CAN)	10	–	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	–	1	–
Aaron Davis (USA)	20	3	–
Curtis Summit (USA)	–	7	–
Vernon Phillips (USA)	–	8	–
Ronald Wright (USA)	14	10	–
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	11	–	–
Gilberto Barreto (COL)	–	–	–
Julio C. Green (USA)	21	–	–
Lupe Aquino (USA)	–	–	–

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	–	–
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Santos Cardona (PR)	1	–	–
Ike Quartey (GHA)	2	1	–
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	3	2	–
James McGirt (USA)	4	10	–
Jung Oh Park (KOR)	5	3	–
Larry Barnes (USA)	6	6	–
Gary Jacobs (GB)	7	4	–
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	8	7	–
Pat Barrett (GB)	9	–	–
David Gonzalez (USA)	10	–	–
Kevin Pompey (USA)	21	5	–
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	–	8	–

Donovan Boucher (CAN)	24	9	–
Wilfredo Rivera (PR)	12	–	3
Stephan Johnson (USA)	22	–	4
Andrew Murray (GUY)	25	–	5

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	–	–
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	–	C	–
Charles Murray (USA)	–	–	C
Frankie Randall (USA)	1	2	2b
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	2	1	–
Terrence Alli (USA)	3	6	–
David Kamau (USA)	4	–	12
Kostya Tszyu (RUS)	5	–	3
Andy Holligan (GB)	6	8	4
Hector Lopez (MEX)	7	9	–
Pedro Sanchez (DR)	8	–	5
Vincent Phillips (USA)	9	–	–
Angel Hernandez (PR)	10	–	7
Loreto Garza (USA)	22	3	–
Morris East (PHIL)	–	4	–
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	–	5	–
Eder Gonzalez (COL)	–	7	–
Jan Bergman (SA)	–	10	–
Rafael Pineda (COL)	–	–	2a
Rodney Moore (USA)	23	–	6
Pedro Padilla (COL)	–	–	8
Roger Mayweather (USA)	15	–	9
Ray Oliveira (USA)	–	–	10

IBF NUMBER ONE TO BE DETERMINED

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	–	–
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	–	C	–
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	–	C
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	1	5	1
Leavander Johnson (USA)	2	8	3
Burmba Mitchell (USA)	3	3	7
Jean Baptist Mendy (FRA)	4	4	4
Wilfrido Rocha (COL)	5	–	–
Nazarov Olzubek (JAP)	6	1	–
Chad Broussard (USA)	7	10	–
Miguel Julio (COL)	8	9	2
David Sample (USA)	9	–	–
Tony Lopez (USA)	10	6	11
Joey Gamache (USA)	12	2	12
Fabian Tejeda (ARG)	–	7	–
Eduardo Molina (COL)	20	12	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	–	–	6
Mike Evgen (USA)	–	–	8
Carl Griffith (USA)	17	–	9
Jose Vidal (USA)	–	–	10

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	–	C	–
John-John Molina (PR)	–	–	C
Gabriel Ruelas (USA)	1	6	5
Calvin Grove (USA)	2	–	4
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	3	11	12
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	4	8	9
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	5	–	10
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	6	–	–
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	7	5	6
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	8	7	–
Phil Hopson (USA)	9	–	7
November Nishingila (SA)	10	–	–
Harold Warren (USA)	–	1	–
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	29	2	–
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	19	3	–
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	11	4	–
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	21	9	2
Lamar Murphy (USA)	23	10	–
Bernard Taylor (USA)	–	–	1
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	3
Eugene Speed (USA)	13	–	8

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gregorio Vargas (MEX)	C	–	–
Jung Kyun Park (KOR)	–	C	–
Tom Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	3	1
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	–	–
Moises Leija (USA)	3	6	–
Jose Vida Ramos (DR)	4	–	–
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	5	–	7
Koji Asakawa (JAP)	6	8	–
Ever Beleno (COL)	7	7	4
Chris Saguid (PHIL)	8	9	–
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	9	–	–
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	10	–	–
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	25	1	–
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	12	2	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	–	4	–
Orlando Soto (PAN)	–	5	2
Tae Sik Chun (KOR)	–	10	–
Francisco Segura (USA)	13	–	3
Harold Warren (USA)	–	–	5
Baby Sugar Rojas (COL)	–	–	6
Tony Green (USA)	17	–	8
Alejandro Gonzalez (MEX)	–	–	9
Billy Hardy (USA)	15	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	–	–
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	–	C	–
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	–	–	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	8	–
Cesar Soto (MEX)	2	–	4
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	–	3
Yuichi Kasai (JAP)	4	4	–
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	5	2	–
Welcome Ncita (SA)	6	9	2
Freddy Cruz (DR)	7	–	–
Jesse Benavides (USA)	8	–	–
Jose Garcia (DR)	9	–	–
Luis Mendoza (COL)	10	–	9
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	14	1	–
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	–	3	–
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	28	5	–
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	27	6	–
Jesus Salud (USA)	–	7	1
Jose Rincones (VEN)	16	10	8
Nurhuda (INDO)	29	–	5
Cesar Polanco (DR)	19	–	6
Maui Diaz (USA)	11	–	7
Rudy Zavala (USA)	17	12	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	C	–	–
Eliecer Julio (COL)	–	C	–
Orlando Canizales (USA)	–	–	C
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	2	–	–
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	3	2	8
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	4	3	–
Eddie Cook (USA)	5	5	4
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	8	–
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	7	–	–
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	4	–
Dong Choon Lee (KOR)	9	–	–
Drew Docherty (GB)	10	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	–	6	–
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	–	7	–
In Joo Cho (KOR)	29	9	12
Harold Mestre (COL)	18	10	3
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	–	–	2
Clarence Adams (USA)	27	11	5
Lauren Ramirez (SPA)	–	–	6
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	14	–	7
Derrick Whiteboy (SA)	–	–	9
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	–	–
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	–	C	–
Julio Borboa (MEX)	–	–	C
Khaoyai Mahasarakam (THAI)	1	1	–
Marco A. Barrera (MEX)	2	–	7
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	3	10	–
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	4	–	–
Armando Salazar (MEX)	5	–	–
Hiroshi Kawashima (JAP)	6	9	–
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	7	6	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	8	–	–
Cecilio Espino (MEX)	9	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	10	4	–
Hyung Chul Lee (KOR)	20	2	–
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	16	3	–
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	5	–
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	–	7	–
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	25	8	–
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	–	–	1
Harold Gray (COL)	–	–	2
Robert Quiroga (USA)	26	–	3
Joel Luna (MEX)	–	–	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	–	–	5
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	–	–	6
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	–	–	8
John Johnson (USA)	17	–	9
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	C	–	–
David Griman (VEN)	–	C	–
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	C
Hugo Soto (ARG)	1	12	–
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	–	–
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	3	–	10
Alfred Kotey (GHA)	4	–	11
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	5	–	–
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	6	–	3
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	7	–	–
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	8	–	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	9	–	6
San Sor Pleonchit (THAI)	10	7	–
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	12	1	–
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	16	2	–
Evangelino Perez (PAN)	–	3	–
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	–	4	–
Jae Kwon Chang (KOR)	25	5	–
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	20	6	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	–	8	1
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	9	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	15	10	–
Scotty Olson (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	28	–	4
Arthur Johnson (USA)	–	–	5
Robbie Regan (GB)	–	11	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	–	–	8
Miguel Martinez (MEX)	13	–	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Michael Carbajal (USA)	C	–	C
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	–	C	–
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	1	7	5
Javier Varguez (MEX)	2	–	–
Jesus Chong (MEX)	3	10	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	4	11	11
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	5	3	12
Domingo Sosa (DR)	6	8	10
Juan Torres (PAN)	7	1	1
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	8	–	2
Raul Rios (MEX)	9	–	–
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	10	12	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	16	2	–
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	–	4	–
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	–	5	–
Virgilio Chifundo (PAN)	24	6	–
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	–	9	–
Eric Griffin (USA)	–	–	3
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	–	–	4
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	–	–	6
Leon Salazar (PAN)	–	–	7
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	–	–	8
Pronchai Sithpraporom (THAI)	–	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	–	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	C	–
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	C
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	1	–	–
Kermin Guardia (COL)	2	3	–
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	3	–	–
Toto Pow Phongasawang (THAI)	4	9	–
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	5	–	–
Saman Sor Jaturong (THAI)	6	11	–
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	7	6	5
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	8	–	–
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	9	8	2
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	10	10	7
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	1	9
Jin Ho Kim (KOR)	16	2	–
Fahlan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	–	4	–
Miguel Angel Granados (MEX)	–	5	–
Rafael Torres (DR)	–	7	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	–	–	1
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	12	–	3
Pichitnoi Sithbangprachan (THAI)	–	–	6
Ekawit Singhchatchawal (THAI)	–	–	8
J. Chareon (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

From THE RING, September 1951

NO SUBSTITUTE FOR *Heart*

If Rocky Graziano and Tony Zale proved anything during their legendary three-fight series, it was that both had tons of fighting heart.

By Barney Nagler

The mettle of Rocky Graziano no longer is doubted. There was a time, however, when word went around that the rock-throwing Eastsider, not yet the middleweight champion, was short on courage. That was after Graziano's first, and futile, lunge at Tony Zale's title in 1946.

Graziano hurt Zale early in this clash at Yankee Stadium, but the durable veteran from Gary, Indiana, rebounded in the sixth round to floor the Rock with a body blow. It was the kind of punch only the victim can assay, being low and hard, and breath-stealing.

Ruby Goldstein, the referee, counted Graziano out while the rebuffed challenger seemingly knew what was happening. Yet Rocky was unable to respond to the instinctive urge to come erect. Immediately, even before you can say Ray Robinson, the word was out: Graziano had quit.

"He's got a heart big as this," fight managers said, always with gestures. They underlined their contempt by indicating a circle the size of a dime where the heart should be. Most came to accept this as fact, based on the case visually adduced in the Stadium ring. So when Graziano was rematched with Zale in Chicago, July 16, 1947, he was suspect.

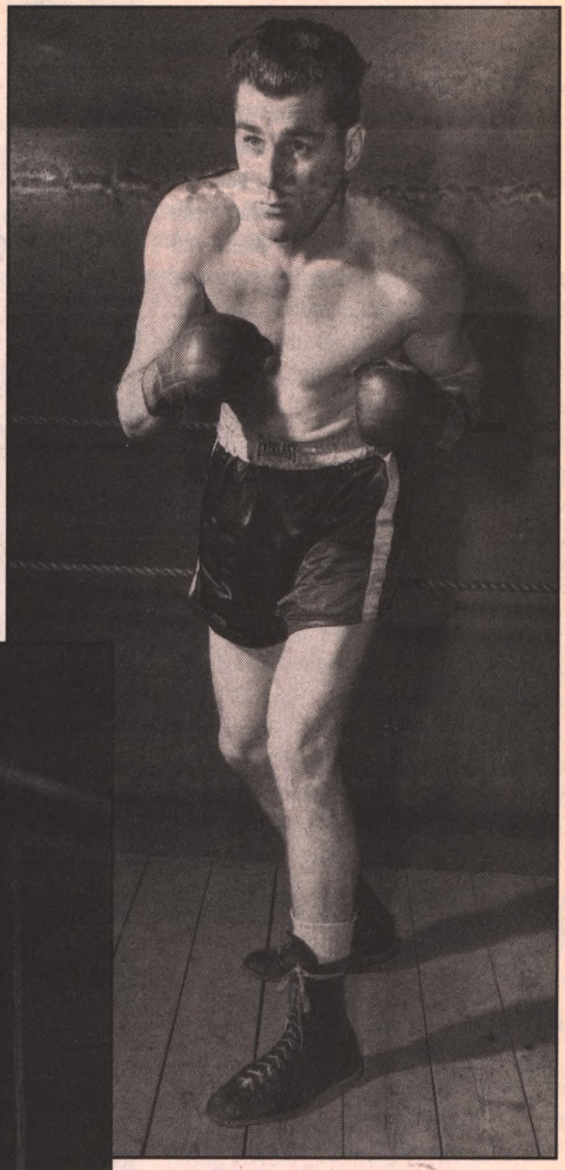
In the early rounds of this one, Zale opened gigots in Graziano's face. The blood flowed, and the sweltering customers in the sweat-heated Chicago Stadium anticipated an early end for Graziano. Some press section denizens even indicated they felt that Graziano was looking for a soft spot.

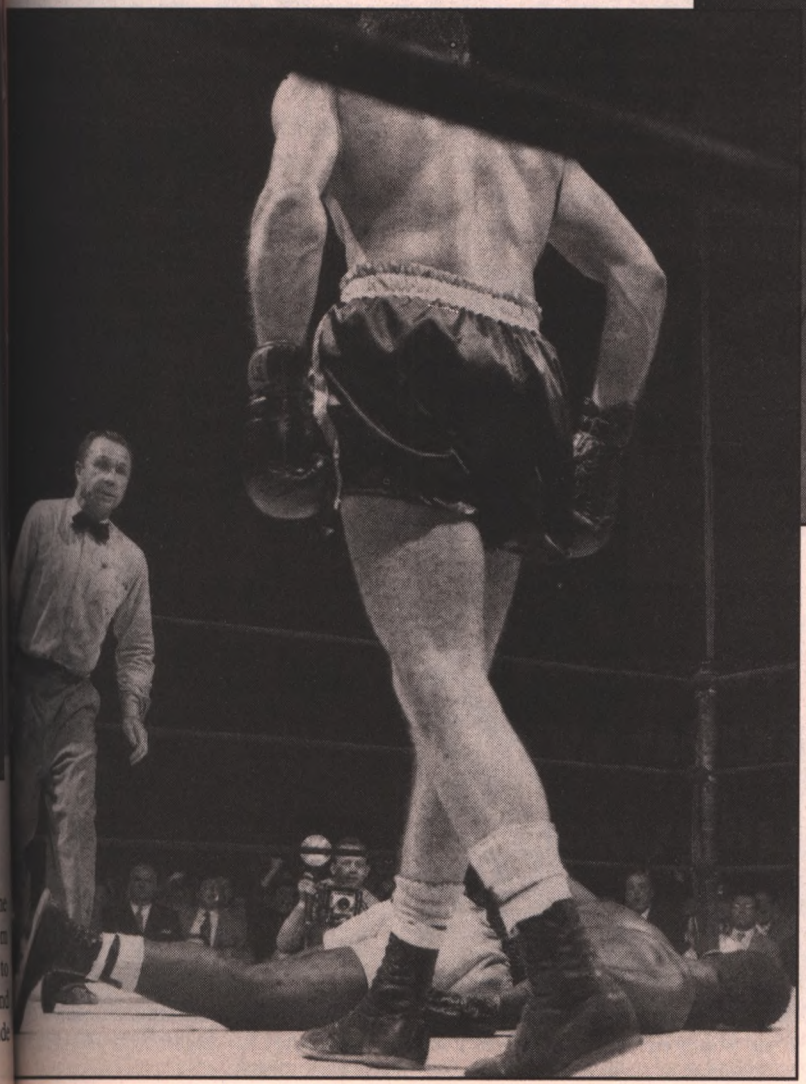
They were wrong. Graziano draped Zale over the ropes and beat him up badly. The referee stopped the struggle in the sixth. Graziano was the 160-pound champion. More importantly, he had proved how wrong it was to pinpoint him as a competitor short on resolution. He had proved them wrong in the furnace of competition.

***

Graziano was not alone in this regard. Since the first fighters came to scratch to do battle in some pristine forest, there has been a diffusion of opinion regarding fighters' courage. Benny Leonard, as quoted by Ray Arcel, the arch trainer, put it best: "The most dangerous fighter is the fighter who's a little afraid. I'd much rather fight a guy who's not afraid of anything. You can usually tell what he's gonna do. The hard guy to lick is the guy who's a little cautious."

Arcel can dip quickly into his mental catalogue of fighters' psyches for substantiation of this point. As a matter of fact, he was in Zale's corner against Graziano. He saw Graziano's turnabout in Chicago. Obviously, Graziano was a guy just a little cautious.





Walter Cartier (above) was supposedly an overcautious middleweight. In May 1951, he proved his mettle by twice rising from the canvas to drop and outpoint Eugene "Silent" Hairston.

Further proof that the cautious fighter is the one most likely to bristle with a boldness unsuspected by the opposition was offered by Walter Cartier in his recent turnabout with Gene (Silent) Hairston in Madison Square Garden. Cartier was regarded as a fighter imprisoned by caution. Yet, in this one, he came off the floor twice to put Hairston there in the lambent

seconds of the 10th and final round. He had proved he was not lacking in competitive zeal.

A fighter's courage is never constant. It is not to be tapped as an enduring source, much as a water tap in New York town. It often runs dry.

One of Arcel's fighters, Lou Nova, was regarded as a thoroughly resolute fighter. He sopped up punishment in two fights with Max Baer and in each instance could have succumbed openly without regard for subsequent censure.

But he twice knocked out Baer. Another night, in Philadelphia, he was shamefully fouled and abused by Tony Galento in as lawless a ring struggle as the business has known. He didn't quit.

Yet on the night he went into the ring against Joe Louis at Yankee Stadium, Nova was something apart from the man who had boldly and tenaciously approached the job of subduing Baer and absorbing the butts and elbows of Galento.

Arcel told about this in a magazine article written by Bill Heinz, a piece in which the trainer said:

"The day of the fight we drove into New York for the weigh-in, and now you could see that something had happened to Nova. He didn't say anything, and I didn't say anything to him, but I could see he didn't have the spirit he had when he fought Baer and Galento. After the weigh-in and the examination, Dr. William Walker, who was the boxing commission physician then, said to me, 'Did you give this fellow a cup of coffee before you came here?'

"I said, 'No. Why?' He never answered.

"We went up to Ray Carlin's apartment in the Dauphin Hotel. Nova ate his dinner, and we tried to take a walk. He just didn't have the snap to walk, so we came back and he lay down. I remember him lying there on the bed, and he said to Carlin, 'This mental torture is terrible.'"

Nova went out there and was knocked out, and it is reasonable to assume that he was far less fighter that night than ever before, for the spirit was gone out of him.

After the Louis debacle there was little left of Nova as a fighter, a string of wins over pushovers and four decisive knockouts at the hands of Lee Savold and Tami Mauriello ended his career.

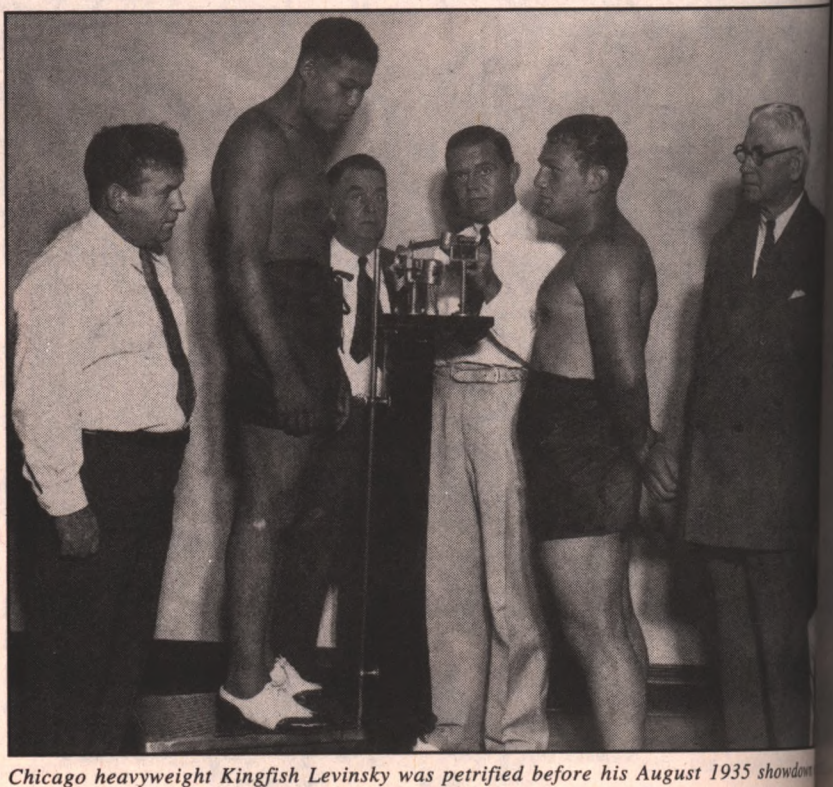
***

The European attitude toward courage is antipodal of the outlook here. It is regarded as a magnificent concession on the part of an obviously beaten boxer to surrender. It is a gesture out of good sense by safety first. Only recently, Cyrille Delannoit sat on his stool in obvious discouragement and surrendered to Ray Robinson in a bout in Turin.

Lou Nova, shown after being kayoed by Joe Louis in 1941, was among the most courageous fighters his era. But before meeting "The Brown Bomber," he admitted, "This mental torture is terrible."

The Belgian suffered no criticism because of his action, nor have any strictures been placed in his official record. He is regarded in Europe as an athlete who, having met his superior, conceded in the heat of conquest that he was vanquished.

Yet another European of an earlier Enrico Venturi, the Italian, soon came to the American definition of valor as it is



Chicago heavyweight Kingfish Levinsky was petrified before his August 1935 showdown bonebreaking puncher Joe Louis. Levinsky lasted less than one round.

out in the ring. Venturi, in a bout with Pedro Montanez in New York back in 1937, was knocked down by an especially vicious smash to the head. He was palpably hurt but took no count. He went the distance with Montanez, losing a decision at the end of 12 rounds.

In Venturi's dressing room there was considerable academic interest in his failure to take a count. He was a veteran of the ring, with many years of activity to his credit, and yet he had behaved as the veriest tyro. He had lost the opportunity to take advantage of a count. Ed Van Every, the fight writer, bent low over Venturi, who sat cross-legged on the inevitable leather-garbed rubbing table.

"How come," one scribe asked, "you didn't take a nine-count on the knockdown?"

Venturi, who groped for the right words in English, thought for a moment. Then he said, "My head say take nine, but it was here I couldn't stay down." He pointed to his heart. He had learned that valor is the better side of discretion in the American ring.

American fighters learn this early. Billy Conn was arrogantly bold from the moment he first pulled on work gloves as a Pittsburgh kid. He fought the opposition placed in front of him without questioning the advisability of manager Johnny Ray's matchmaking. He was richly endowed by instinct, with the guts of a champion.

After his second, and shameful, bout with Louis, wherein he ran, slithered, retreated, and cowered into the eighth round, only to be clipped by the heavyweight champion, Conn had one regret. He rightly fretted lest his friends, and the public, regard his effort as something less than

THE RING RATINGS, *September 1951*

Joey Maxim

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Walcott

1. Ezzard Charles
2. Joe Louis
3. Rocky Marciano
4. Clarence Henry
5. Roland LaStarza
6. Rex Layne
7. Bob Baker
8. Cesar Brion
9. Lee Savold
10. Hein Ten Hoff

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joey Maxim

1. Archie Moore
2. Harry Matthews
3. Bob Murphy
4. Bob Satterfield
5. Don Cockell
6. Dan Bucceroni
7. Harold Johnson
8. Wesbury Bascom
9. Carl Olson
10. Jake LaMotta

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Randolph Turpin

1. Ray Robinson
2. Dave Sands
3. Laurent Dauthuille
4. Robert Villemain
5. Ray Barnes
6. Walter Cartier
7. Rocky Graziano
8. Ronnie Delaney
9. Rocky Castellani
10. Gene Hairston

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant

1. Kid Gavilan
2. Charles Humez
3. Billy Graham
4. Johnny Bratton
5. Gil Turner
6. Charley Fusari
7. Eddie Thomas
8. Mickey Tollis
9. Johnny Saxton
10. Fitzie Pruden

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: James Carter

1. Ike Williams
2. Freddie Dawson
3. Art Aragon
4. Tommy Campbell
5. Luther Rawlings
6. Joe Brown
7. Paddy DeMarco
8. Calvin Smith
9. Del Flanagan
10. Enrique Bolanos

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Sandy Saddler

1. Willie Pep
2. Ray Famechon
3. Roy Ankarah
4. Charley Riley
5. Percy Bassett
6. Ronnie Clayton
7. Tirso del Rosario
8. Glen Flanagan
9. Jackie Blair
10. Fabela Chavez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Vic Toweel

1. Luis Romero
2. Peter Keenan
3. Jimmy Carruthers
4. Jean Sneyers
5. Maurice Sandeyron
6. Tommy Proffitt
7. Elly Bennett
8. Emile Chemama
9. Gianni Zuddas
10. Hadi Tijani

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dado Marino

1. Terry Allen
2. Vic Herman
3. Teddy Gardner
4. Jimmy Laffin
5. Louis Skena
6. Honore Pratesi
7. Nazzareno Gianelli
8. Norman Tennant
9. Juan Diaz II
10. Black Pico

ennobling.

"I don't mind losing," he was quoted as saying, "but them guys'll say I quit."

***

The mark of a champion is the badge of courage. Willie Ritchie, the former lightweight kingpin, earned the accolade after he had lost his title. In 1919, Ritchie came East on his honeymoon, but was persuaded to take on Benny Leonard in Newark, New Jersey. Ritchie obviously was in no shape. Leonard himself came to offer a maxim of the ring as a result of beating Ritchie.

"A fighter just married is never any good," Leonard said, "not because of the condition of his body, but because of the condition of his heart. He is romantically inclined just after marriage and not fit for breaking another guy's nose. He loves everybody."

Ritchie was paid $10,000 for going in against Leonard, who proceeded to disassemble the former champion. But Ritchie would not go down. The crowd called for his surrender in the name of mercy. The referee, doubtless intrigued by Ritchie's fortitude, permitted the bout to go long after it was a contest. Leonard couldn't floor the Californian. At the end, in the eighth round, Ritchie was still on his feet, a knockout victim whose head was unbowed.

Ritchie had proved himself a hallmark of championship by bracing his feet as Leonard assaulted him in the last round. He would not go down.

A more modern lightweight out of Newark, Allie Stolz, frequently was confronted with the task of providing a practical affidavit confirming his valor. He did this fully in a 15-round match with Sammy Angott, who was somewhat of a lightweight champion. Stolz went the distance with Angott and, in the books of many, should have been declared the winner. When it was over he moaned, then sighed, "What the hell, I tried didn't I?"

Truly, in the books of many, he had won the championship.

The case of Kingfish Levinsky is one never to be overlooked in essays of this kind. Of him it has been said, "He never missed a punch." It also was said, before his debacle with Joe Louis, that he was a man who feared none other than his sister Lena. He had come to taps with a number of rough citizens who had the notion to turn him viscera-side out.

On the night Levinsky was called upon to face Louis in Chicago's Comiskey Park, he came apart at the joints. The coronary valves worked harder, and Levinsky's breath came in short takes. He was on the verge of a nervous collapse. Mike Jacobs, who was enriching the culture of Chicago by offering Louis vs. Levinsky by way of enriching his own exchequer, sensed there was something wrong with the Kingfish and that it wasn't kosher.

He rushed back to Levinsky's dressing room and found the Kingfish had turned into the very whitefish. He knew that action was a requirement, and he rushed out to ringside, where a member of the Illinois Athletic Commission was presiding.

"Gotta get this fight in fast," Jacobs said. "It looks like rain."

The official turned his regulatory eye skyward. He saw stars. "Ain't a cloud in the sky," he said.

"Hell, it can't be more than a minute before it starts pouring," Mike insisted.

The official realized that Jacobs, who had farmed a hothouse row in New Jersey, was a better weather prophet. He gave approval as Levinsky was led to the ring. It was an event within the province of a death house report. Louis knocked out Levinsky in one round. A man of courage had lost his noblest of allies before combat.

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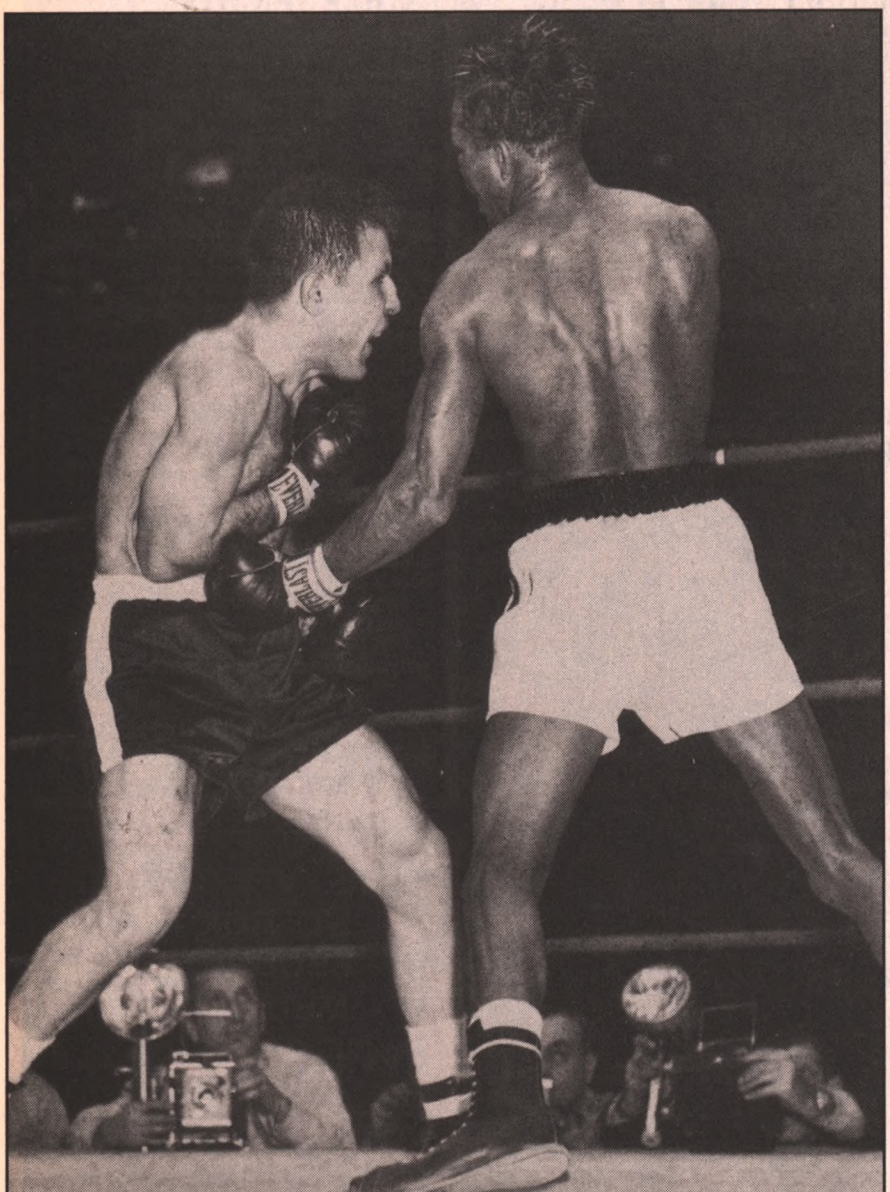
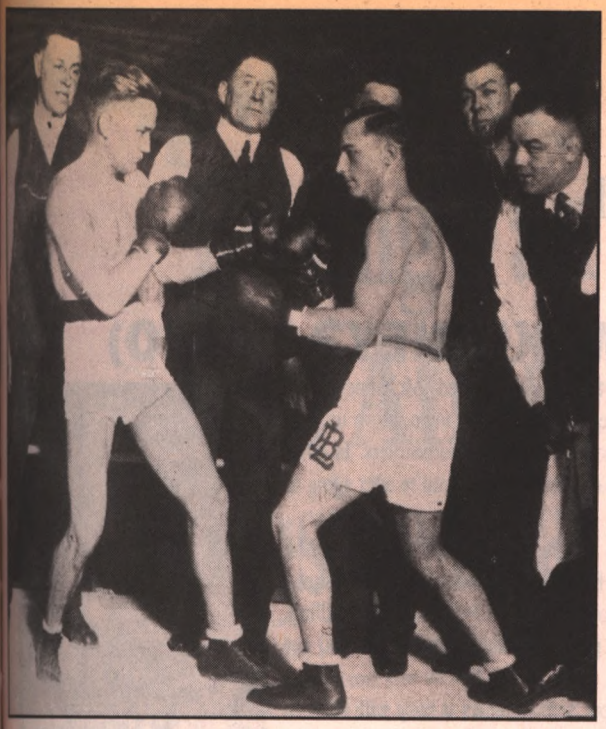
In this regard there's the story of a former heavyweight champion who, in the twilight of fistfighting, was trying to quit in his corner one night. His trainer and seconds would not permit



Perhaps no fighter displayed the heart that marked Jake LaMotta's reign as world middleweight champion. LaMotta was particularly proud of the fact that arch-rival Sugar Ray Robinson, whom he fought six times, was never able to floor him.



Willie Ritchie squares off with world lightweight champion Benny Leonard before their clash in 1919. Ritchie provided a study in courage; he took a beating but refused to be knocked down. Leonard won by eighth-round TKO.

him the luxury of surrender. Each time the bell rang they pushed him out to be throttled by a younger adversary.

Finally, out of sheer perversity and inventiveness, he came upon a ruse. He permitted himself to be slugged on the jaw. Blood spurted from his mouth. He fought through the round, came back to his corner, and wouldn't take a drink of water. Instead, he contained a glob of blood in his mouth.

The next round the former heavyweight champion was ready. He lay back on the ropes as his attacker pressed the assault and dropped his arms. At the same time he opened his mouth and let the blood roll down his chin. The referee interceded. The fight was stopped.

"What a brave guy he was," a ringsider was heard to say. "He took an awful beating, but he stood up and wouldn't go down. No wonder he was a champion."

Jake LaMotta, the "Bronx Bull," knew a courage that was born, many say, of pigheadedness. But it was also a courage that was backed with a deep pride. So very much like Rocky Graziano, it was not uncommon to see him come storming back after absorbing a brutal beating in the early rounds and wear down and outlast an opponent.

Against a one-armed fighter (Marcel Cerdan), they jeered, he had won the middleweight crown. But he proved himself in subsequent bouts and even in defeats. Defending the title against Laurent Dauthuille, he was losing the bout until the closing seconds of a last round, when he uncorked a furious barrage of punches to almost literally smother and defeat the challenger.

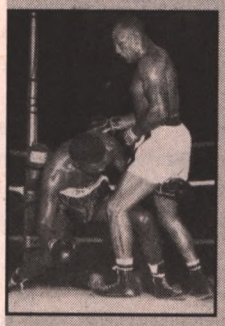
In losing the title to Ray Robinson, he took a brutal beating. None could have thought less of him had he gone down and remained down in an earlier round.

But he remained upright, a target for a sharpshooting perfectionist. The referee finally halted the slaughter in the 13th, and it is listed as a knockout.

But through sore and swollen lips after the bout, LaMotta said proudly, "No man has yet knocked me down!"

Courage. There are all sorts of courage. ■

The Cover: *Whoops.* Stanley Weston's marvelous illustration suggests a title fight rematch between Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles. Trouble is, Charles just lost the title to Jersey Joe Walcott. Must've been too late to change the cover.

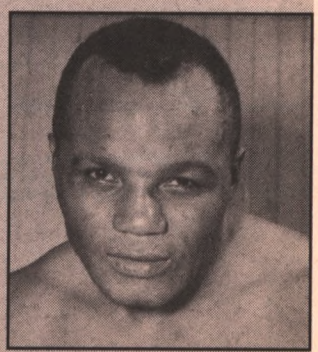


Title Change: Who would've figured it? After twice defeating Jersey Joe Walcott in world title fights, Ezzard Charles suffers a seventh-round kayo at the hands of the 37-year-old challenger at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh. Walcott becomes the oldest fighter to ever win the crown.

Not So Sweet: Publisher and Editor Nat Fleischer reports from Earls Court in London, where Englishman Randy Turpin wins the world middleweight title via upset 15-round decision over Sugar Ray Robinson. According to Fleischer, Robinson is a good bet to win the rematch, but only if he enters the ring in top condition.

Jake Takes It: Jersey Jones is ringside at Yankee Stadium, where Jake LaMotta, fighting for the first time since his St. Valentine's Day loss to Sugar Ray Robinson, is hammered during a seventh-round TKO loss to "Irish" Bob Murphy. Only four months removed from middleweight, LaMotta scales 175 pounds.

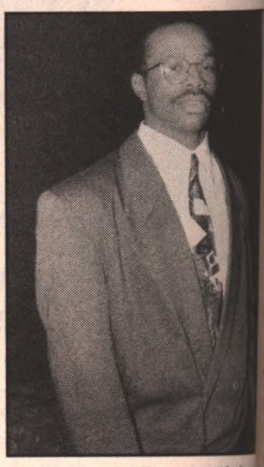
Fighter Of The Month: Jersey Joe Walcott, a kayo winner over Ezzard Charles, is the choice. Also receiving consideration: Randy Turpin, who dethroned middleweight champion Sugar Ray Robinson, and 175-pound contender Bob Murphy, who stopped Jake LaMotta.



Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood

PATTERSON-McKINNEY? HB(NO)



Patterson: Willing to unify, but

A suggestion for junior featherweight champions Kennedy McKinney (IBF) and Tracy Patterson (WBC): Rent an arena in some small town, glove up, and duke it out for 12 rounds. No purses, no television, no sportswriters. In other words, just for the hell of it. That's probably the only way you're ever going to determine the better man.

The fight is a natural; Patterson says McKinney is the only 122-pounder he wants, and if they don't square off soon, he'll jump to featherweight. McKinney says Patterson is his only potential fight of significance. Both camps are willing, but only if the champions are properly paid. That means about $250,000 per fighter.

Only HBO can afford such a price, but Seth Abraham is busy with Riddick Bowe, Lennox Lewis, James Toney, Roy Jones, and Oscar De La Hoya.

"There are a lot of wonderful fights out there," he told THE RING, "but if no one watches them ... We need big Broadway fights."

Which means McKinney and Patterson will continue to play—separately—in Peoria.

BIGGER AIN'T BETTER

Barkley (several pounds ago) and Mustafa Muhammad

Former triple-crown champion Iran Barkley may have convinced himself he's a heavyweight, but he'll n convince trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad.

In February, Barkley lost the IBF super middleweight title to James Toney. Making weight was a horror sho he decided to move up. He just forgot to stop.

In August "The Blade" returned to the ring at 208 pounds and stopped Dino Stewart in nine slow-motion ro His second comeback bout came in October; Barkley, a bloated 206, lost by sixth-round TKO to Adolpho Washi when his left eye swelled shut. The bout was televised on ESPN, and broadcasters Barry Tompkins and Al Bern expressed the widely held belief that the 33-year-old Barkley, 31-9 (19), should retire. But the New Yorker prom "There's gonna be a whole lot more days for Iran Barkley."

After the Washington fight, Mustafa Muhammad told ESPN only Barkley should determine his own future. But one week later he told THE RING he had issued an ultimatum to his fighter: Reduce to 190 pounds or find a new trainer.

"He can't fight at heavyweight," said Mustafa Muhammad, a former light heavyweight champion who himself once tried jumping to heavyweight. "But if he gets down to cruiser, he wins a fourth title, no problem. You can never count Iran out."

Maybe not, Eddie. But what about a mercy stoppage?

Paz: Headed for Duran?

LISTEN UP

Look for WBC welterweight champion **Pernell Whitaker's** next fight to be a mandatory defense against **Santos Cardona** ... With **Bill Cayton** now managing **Vinny Pazienza**, expect talks to resume involving a showdown between Paz and **Roberto Duran** ... Judging by recent quotes, **Larry Holmes** wants **George Foreman** and Big George wants Holmes. As usual, the problem figures to be money. ■

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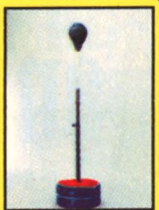

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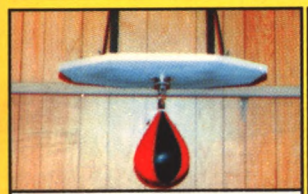

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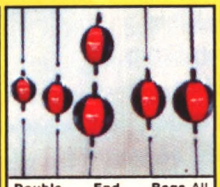

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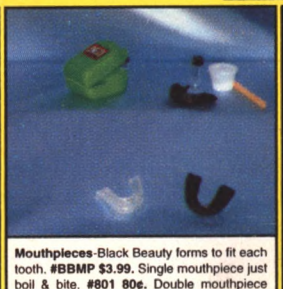

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